MUSCOGIANA

Celebrating the

40TH ANNIVERSARY

of the

Muscogee County Genealogical Society

1976-2016

FALL 2016

VOLUME 27 NUMBER 2

MUSCOGIANA
Journal of the Muscogee Genealogical Society

Mike Bunn, Editor
Rachel Dobson, Assistant Editor

Editorial Board

Lea L. Dowd	Dr. Hugh I. Rodgers
Daniel Olds	Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr.
David Owings	Dr. John Lupold

Submission of Material for Publication

Interested parties are welcome to submit primary source material and journal articles for publication in *Muscogiana*. Submissions should be e-mailed to calliebmcginnis@gmail.com as a Word document. To be considered for publication, material must be of cultural, historical or genealogical significance to the Columbus/original Muscogee County, Georgia, area. This includes the contemporary Georgia counties of Muscogee, Harris, Talbot, Marion, and Chattahoochee, as well as Russell County, Alabama. Vital information about living persons should not be included. All articles should be footnoted according to the *Chicago Manual of Style*, and should be 1000 to 5000 words in length. The Editors and the Editorial Board make final decisions on the acceptance of material for publication. Neither the Muscogee Genealogical Society nor Columbus State University can accept responsibility for errors or inaccuracies in material submitted for publication.

Book Reviews

Book reviews of both local titles and general genealogical monographs are accepted for inclusion in *Muscogiana*. Reviews should be 350-750 words, and should contain an overview of the work and an analysis on the value of the work to genealogists and other researchers in the region.

Sponsors

We invite and encourage businesses and individuals to sponsor the publication of *Muscogiana*. The suggested rates are as follows:

¼ page $25.00 ½ page $50.00 Whole page $100.00

Please direct all correspondence concerning *Muscogiana* to

MUSCOGEE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
P. O. Box 761
Columbus, Georgia 31902

Webpage:www.muscogeegenealogy.com

MUSCOGIANA

Journal of the Muscogee Genealogical Society

VOLUME 27 FALL 2016 NUMBER 2

CONTENTS

The Starkes of Starke Avenue: Mary E. Grier and John M. Starke 1
Roger Harris

The Henry L. Benning Civil War Correspondence: Another Gem 24
in the Columbus State University Archives
Phil Linn

"Those Huff Girls": Darlings of the Early Silver Screen 37
Daniel Bellware

Book Reviews 47

Index 54

In Memoriam

Dozier Neal Wickham
1929-2016

Conservationist and Preservationist

Published and printed in conjunction with
The Columbus State University Archives,
Simon Schwob Memorial Library
Copyright 2016 by Columbus State University
All rights reserved

ISSN 1042-3419

From the Editor

As indicated on the commemorative cover of this issue of *Muscogiana*, 2016 marks the 40th anniversary of the Muscogee County Genealogical Society's (MCGS) founding. Forty years of service is a milestone worth celebrating for any organization, especially one whose work is of such enduring value to so many. Throughout its existence, the MCGS has served as a forum for research, an outlet for scholarship, and an advocate for appreciation of the importance and continuing relevance of the past—all most worthwhile goals which have only been accomplished through the dedication of the organization's leadership and the steadfast support of its members. I hope you will join me in congratulating everyone who has been involved in that process over the years. (An excellent summary of the organization's founding and early leaders can be found in Hugh Rodgers' article in the Spring, 2002 edition of *Muscogiana*, "Notes on the Origins of the Muscogee County Genealogical Society.")

I believe it is worth noting that one of the common denominators in all of the Society's work over four decades, regardless of the nature of the endeavor, is a profound understanding of the role of the individual in history. Stories of individual ancestors, individual leaders, individual citizens—these are the stuff of which history is made and a primary reason it continues to intrigue and inspire. In many ways we honor that special understanding of the past in this issue of *Muscogiana.* In it we feature stories of individuals who, each in their own way, left a mark on the history of the Muscogee County area. Some are well known, others less familiar, but each a unique part of the rich mosaic of our shared past. Our first article is the long-awaited second part of Roger Harris' superbly-researched chronicle of the Starke family, namesake of Columbus' Starke Avenue. In it he tracks the stories several family members, helping us understand both their lives and times in which they lived in the process. Next is a concise chronicle of the military experiences of one of the city's most famed figures, Brigadier General Henry L. Benning. In this briskly-paced article local historian Phil Linn offers us a vivid sketch of Benning's activities during the Civil War which he adapted from his description of his papers at the Columbus State University Archives. We round out our articles with Daniel Bellware's intriguing follow up to his article in our preceding issue which investigated movie makers who worked in early twentieth century Columbus. This time, Bellware brings the accomplished careers of two early darlings of the silver screen with local ties, the Huff sisters, to our attention. Finally, we again offer insightful reviews of a selection of books associated with area history which have been published recently.

I hope you will enjoy this edition of the journal and will join me in expressing thanks to our contributors. I would like to say thank you to all of you who support this journal and the important work of the MCGS. Here's to the next forty years!

Mike Bunn, Editor
jamesmichaelbunn@gmail.com

The Starkes of Starke Avenue:
Mary E. Grier and John M. Starke
Part II

By

Roger Harris

This photograph, taken in 1913 (according to a handwritten note on the verso), shows the house that still stands at 1410 Starke Avenue before the ambitious remodeling undertaken in the 1920s by Nina Young Browne (Mrs. Rhodes Browne) and Columbus architect T. Firth Lockwood. Nina and Rhodes Browne, along with their daughter, Marjorie, occupied the house as early as the fall of 1913. Marjorie Browne Hunt, who married her first husband, Weyman Strother, in the house in 1914, owned the property until her death in 1987. According to a grid drawn for the Muscogee Real Estate Company in 1911, the house was originally situated (at least partially) in the middle of what is now Starke Avenue—a matter of some 25 or 30 yards from the structure's present location. Evidently, the structure was moved to its present location between 1911 (date of the grid) and 1913 (year that the Brownes took occupancy).

Courtesy of the Rhodes Browne Collection, Columbus State University

In Part I of this article, published in the Spring 2012 issue of Muscogiana*, the families of Mary E. Grier and her husband, John M. Starke, were discussed at length. In the text that follows, the arrival of the Starkes in Columbus in 1865 and the life that they made for themselves on what is now Starke Avenue are discussed. Other area families—such as the Masons, Shepherds, Drakes, and Canteys—are mentioned in the context of the lives of the Starkes. Never intended to represent definitive treatment of the Starkes and related family members, this compilation is an overview presented for purposes of creating a link between the Starkes and their largely forgotten place in the history of Columbus and nearby counties. Any number of articles could be written about people and places cited in "The Starkes of Starke Avenue," and I would welcome such responses to these narratives. All references to Linwood Cemetery are references to the cemetery in Columbus that was established in 1828, the year in which the city was founded.*

The Starkes of the Starke Place, Columbus

In the wake of the South's devastating defeat in the Civil War, the Starkes decided to leave plantation life in agricultural southwest Georgia and move to Columbus in 1865.[1] That same year, for $5,000, the Starkes purchased ten or so acres in Wynnton, which included the house that now stands at 1410 Starke Avenue.[2] Two years later, in 1867, an advertisement extending the length of the lower half of the page in the *Daily Columbus Enquirer* drew much attention to the fact that Colonel John M. Starke was a man with large parcels of land on both sides of the Chattahoochee River. For sale were his "Shepperd place" in Quitman County, Georgia (1,100 acres, situated six miles above Georgetown); his "Burnley Land" in Barbour County, Alabama ("lying almost in the suburbs of Eufaula"); and his plantation in Pike County, Alabama (400 acres, located within one-half mile of the "Village of Perote"). For lease were his two cotton plantations on the Georgia side of the river—one of 1,000 acres in Quitman County ("known as my home place") and the other of 1,000 acres in Clay County ("seven miles this side of" Fort. Gaines).[3]

Considered by census-takers as residents living "Outside City of Columbus," the Starkes, in Wynnton for five years, appeared in the 1870 Muscogee County census with John (age 46), a "farmer,"

---

[1] John T. Starke's obituary from the Columbus newspaper indicates that he moved to Columbus with his parents in 1865 (see Note 37). The same year, 1865, is mentioned in his father's obituary (see Note 14).

[2] (See Note 4), "The Starkes of Starke Avenue: Mary E. Grier and John M. Starke," Part I, *Muscogiana*, Spring 2012, 1. An additional reference to the Rhodes Browne family's early association with the house and the significance of the year 1913 is found in the *Columbus Enquirer-Sun*, September 28, 1913, 15; the reporter announced that the Brownes "are moving to their home in Wynnton, the attractive and comfortable old Starke Place on Wildwood Circle," accessed June 25, 2016, http://infoweb.newsbank.com.

[3] "Rich River Plantation on Chattahoochee River For Sale," *Daily Columbus Enquirer*, June 21, 1867, 2, accessed June 25, 2016, http://infoweb.newsbank.com. Colonel Starke's "Shepperd place" could very well be a reference to the Shepherd family of Southwest Georgia and Columbus; the Shepherds, like James Grier (Colonel Starke's father-in-law), were large landowners in Stewart County; Quitman County was created from parts of Stewart and Randolph counties in 1858. The reference to land in Pike County, Alabama, near Perote, underscores the familial connection to Eli W. Starke, who lived in that area of Pike County in 1860. One of John M. Starke's brothers, Eli Starke is mentioned as a cousin of Judge Bolling Starke and A. Wallace Starke (who came to Pike County "about the year 1852 from Virginia") in *Alabama: Her History, Resources, War Record, and Public Men: From 1540 to 1872* (Montgomery: Barrett & Brown, 1872), 506. The reference to Clay County property is another possible link to John Thomas Starke (John M. Starke's brother), who is found in the census of Clay County in 1870 and 1880; he is also discussed in Part I.

as head of the household. Along with wife, Mary (age 37), there were two children: Sarah (age 13) and John (age 10).[4] The Starke household also included a domestic servant, Nelson Dozier (age 41), and an 11 year old errand boy, William Roy (Ray?)—both black. When this first post-war census was taken on August 6, 1870, John Starke's personal estate was valued at $50,000 and his real estate holdings at $45,000.[5] Although still not an insignificant total worth for a man in the post-war South, the $95,000 estate associated with John M. Starke in the 1870 census represented a loss of $200,000 against the figure of $300,000 found in his entry recorded in the 1860 census. Unfortunately, his assets did nothing but continue to dwindle.

In the fall of 1873, the year in which the United States entered into an economic depression that lasted until the end of the decade, John M. Starke ran advertisements in the *Daily Columbus Enquirer* and announced that "owing to circumstances" his two river plantations—one in Quitman County, Georgia, ten miles above Eufaula; the other in Clay County, Georgia, seven miles above Fort Gaines—were for rent.[6] He claimed that each plantation "has the capacity to produce 200 bales of cotton and supplies for the place." Mr. Ogletree "on the home place in Quitman County" was one of two people named as contacts for interested parties seeking additional information. As an endorsement, the editorial staff of the newspaper remarked: "Col. J.M. Starke offers two valuable river plantations, as good as are to be found on the Chattahoochee river [sic], for rent. Read carefully his advertisement in to-day's paper."[7]

That same year, unfavorable turns of events seemed to be affecting even John Starke's mode of transportation. In a short article that carried the heading "Buggy Smashed," the newspaper's editorial staff reported that the "horse of Col. Starke run [sic] away with his buggy yestereday [sic], starting from near this office." Nothing was written about the condition of passengers, but readers were informed that Colonel Starke's "vehicle was overturned, and the top badly damaged."[8] In the following year, 1874, Starke experienced more trouble with horses: "A team belonging to Colonel J.M. Starke, of Wynnton, while on the way to this city, at an early hour yesterday morning, while attempting to cross the creek at the foot of Wynn's Hill, narrowly escaped drowning—the sudden rains having swollen the stream to such

---

[4] Available information suggests that the Starkes were the parents of at least four children, and only two of those reached adulthood: Sarah ("Sallie") and John. Mollie (who was probably named "Mary" after her mother) was listed in the 1860 census but died, presumably, before the 1870 census was taken. Another child, identified as "child of Colonel Starke" in a sexton's record, died in 1872 and was buried at Linwood Cemetery. The child would have been born when Colonel Starke's wife was in her early 40s.

[5] U.S. Federal Census, 1870, Georgia, Muscogee County, 237.

[6] Michael Barga, "The Long Depression: 1873-1878," *The Social Welfare History Project (Virginia Commonwealth University Libraries),* accessed July 26, 2016, http://www.socialwelfarehistory.com/eras/the-long-depression; also known as the "Panic of 1873."

[7] "Plantations for Rent," *Daily Columbus Enquirer*, October 2, 1873, 2, 3, accessed July 28, 2016, http://enquirer.galileo.usg.edu. This is a tantalizing reference to Ogletree connections in the Grier family and to what could very well prove to be the location of James Grier's grave. Mr. Ogletree is also named in the advertisement of 1867 (see Note 3). In Part I of "The Starkes of Starke Avenue," ties to the Ogletree family are discussed; in addition, there are details concerning James Grier's death. The "home place in Quitman County," which is included in the 1873 advertisement, could very well be the property on which James Grier was buried.

[8] "Buggy Smashed," *Daily Columbus Enquirer*, June 7, 1873, 3, accessed July 28, 2016, http://enquirer.galileo.usg.edu.

a height as to render crossing a very difficult and dangerous undertaking."[9] Bad luck seemed to follow Starke into 1876, as well, as a *Columbus Sunday Enquirer* piece in January that year appeared carrying the heading "Robbery of a Hog Pen" describing how the "hog pen of Col. Starke, on Bull creek [sic], was broken open yesterday at daylight and four hogs stolen." According to the account, only one of the four hogs was recovered.[10]

In the midst of newspaper coverage for a series of unfortunate reasons, Starke still managed to merit mention for his hospitality. During the Christmas season of 1875, the Starkes entertained in their Columbus home, where they had then lived for ten years, and the following appeared in the *Columbus Daily Enquirer*:

> *Small but elegant [social parties] are beginning to be inaugurated in Columbus, and are productive of the greatest pleasure. One was given last evening at the charming residence of Col. Starke, in Wynnton. The host and hostess, with their lovely daughter, made all enjoy the hours most delightfully. There was none of the stiff formality which mar such parties, but all was easy, graceful and elegant.*[11]

Eight months later, Starke and his "lovely daughter," Sallie, were mentioned yet again in Columbus's *Daily Enquirer*: "The young people of Wynnton have organized a social club. It met Thursday night at Col. John Stark's [sic] residence, under the auspices of his daughter. The occasion was delightful."[12]

Then, in the spring of the following year, having lived for twelve years on what would become Starke Avenue, John M. Starke, father at the time of two children in their teens, died in Columbus on April 3, 1877. *The Columbus Sunday Enquirer* had warned of his imminent death, in the April 1 issue of the newspaper, claiming that "Col. Stark [sic] is quite ill and is not expected to live."[13] His death was announced by the Columbus press only four days later, on April 5. The text of the obituary follows:

> *Col. John M. Starke*
>
> *This gentleman, aged about 55 years, who died Tuesday night [April 3rd] in Wynnton, was born in South Carolina. He moved to this State many years ago, and up to 1865 lived on his plantations down the river, after which time he moved to Wynnton where he died. He was, a very few years ago, a large planter. He was a kind and generous man and one of dignity and courteous bearing. His attachment for his friends was very strong, and his appreciation of them was always shown by his willingness to sacrifice for them. He leaves a wife, son*

---

[9] "Almost a Drowning," *Sun and Columbus Daily Enquirer*, April 21, 1874, 4, accessed July 28, 2016, http://enquirer.galileo.usg.edu.
[10] "Robbery of a Hog Pen," *Columbus Sunday Enquirer*, January 9, 1876, 3, accessed July 28, 2016, http://enquirer.galileo.usg.edu; "Starke Farm" on Bull Creek was also cited in a report devoted to a particularly treacherous passageway for buggies and horses in "Bad Road," *Columbus Daily Enquirer-Sun*, July 6, 1880, 4, accessed July 28, 2016, http://enquirer.galileo.usg.edu.
[11] "Social Parties," *Columbus Daily Enquirer*, December 17, 1875, 4, accessed July 28, 2016, http://enquirer.galileo.usg.edu.
[12] "Social Briefs," *Columbus Daily Enquirer*, September 23, 1876, 4, accessed July 28, 2016, http://enquirer.galileo.usg.edu.
[13] *"Personal," Columbus Sunday Enquirer*, April 1, 1877, 3, accessed July 28, 2016, http://enquirer.galileo.usg.edu.

and daughter. His life was insured for $14,000 and his family is comfortably provided for. The funeral services will take place this morning at 10 o'clock in the Presbyterian church.[14]

At first glance, the reference to the $14,000 for which his life was insured seems a curious one for a man whose holdings had been so considerable. Yet, a closer look at the situation reveals that when the inventory of his estate was filed on August 3, 1877, John M. Starke—the same Colonel Starke who had owned entire plantations deemed "as good as are to be found on the Chattahoochee river [sic]" in his days of prosperity—had "no cash on hand." What remained in his name of any value amounted to, essentially, the Starke Place in Wynnton (appraised at the time of the estate inventory at $3,000.00), his 100 acres on Bull Creek (valued at $1,000.00), and a New England Life Insurance Company policy worth only $7,000.00, not the $14,000 referenced in the obituary.[15]

A detailed explanation of Starke's financial reversals could be accomplished only by a methodical examination of myriad court records from counties on either side of the Chattahoochee River. Indeed, such an investigation would need to cover documents in four Georgia counties (Muscogee, Stewart, Quitman, Clay) and at least two in Alabama (Pike, Barbour)—and the records would need to span a minimum of two decades (1857 to 1877). For exhaustive research, official records from neighboring southwest Georgia counties, such as Randolph and Lee, would also need to be considered, since borders evolved with the creation of new Georgia maps over the course of the nineteenth century. Moreover, because Starke's most substantial holdings were based largely on the inheritance that came from his father-in-law, James Grier, it would also be necessary to scrutinize the various court records that pertain to the sizeable Grier estate—for which bond was posted in Stewart County, shortly after Mr. Grier's death at the end of 1855, in the amount of $227,000.00.[16]

Nevertheless, clues found in published sources suggest that, along with the realities of a difficult economy in the days of Reconstruction, there were ill-fated business dealings with which Colonel Starke became associated as early as the mid-1850s. In fact, a certain newspaper advertisement that appeared in 1857, almost exactly two years after his father-in-law's death, addressed Starke's need to sell property in Clay County.[17] Some years later, Col. Starke found himself, at the insistence of a writ of *fieri facias*,

---

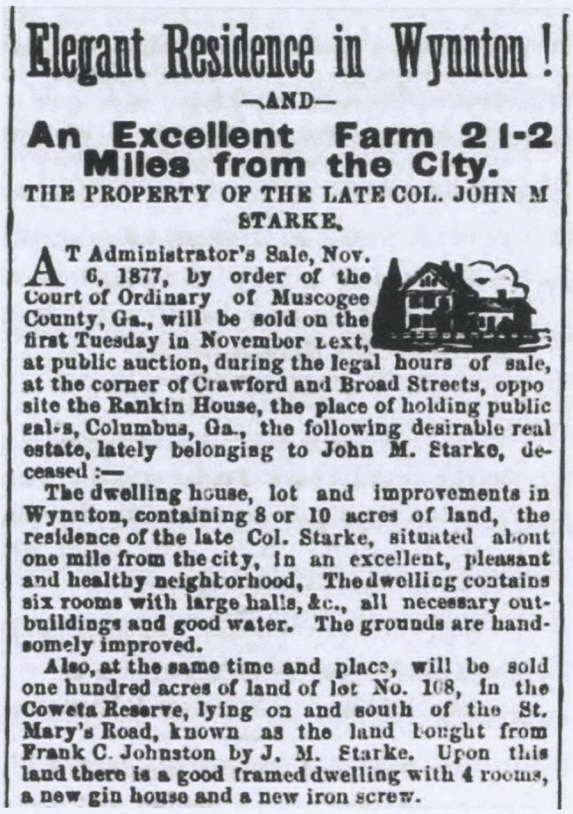
[14] "Col. John M. Starke" (obituary), *Columbus Daily Enquirer*, April 5, 1877, 4; Linwood Cemetery Office (Columbus, Georgia), sexton's record card file for "J.M. Starke."

[15] "Inventory and Appraisement of Estate of John M. Starke, Dec'd," August 1877, Court of Ordinary, Muscogee County, Georgia, 376-78.

[16] "The Starkes of Starke Avenue: Mary E. Grier and John M. Starke," Part I, *Muscogiana*, Spring 2012, 7 (see Note 38).

[17] "Clay County," *Columbus Enquirer, Tri-Weekly*, December 24, 1857, 4, accessed July 23, 2016, http://infoweb.newsbank.com. As early as 1857, Colonel Starke was forced to relinquish land in Clay County; the pertinent newspaper notice reads: "Lot of Land No. 309, in the Seventh district of originally Lee now Clay county; levied on as the property of John M. Stark [sic], to satisfy a *fi fa* from Clay Inferior Court; John Bailey vs. John M. Stark [sic], James T. Flewellen and John Gill Shorter, garnishers." The association with James Thweatt Flewellen in the 1850s brings into sharp focus the alliances that existed between members of the Starke, Shepherd, and Flewellen families even before Starke's arrival in Muscogee County in 1865. In addition to the Flewellen reference in the 1857 newspaper entry, there is also the mention of John Gill Shorter, Governor of Alabama at the beginning of the Civil War, whose business dealings with John Starke reinforce the Starke family's ties to Eufaula. James T. Flewellen's first

forced to dispose of property in Muscogee County.[18] With the inventory of his estate as a record of remaining assets, it is clear that Colonel Starke's resources had been reduced dramatically by the time of his death in 1877 and that his survivors were not destined to enjoy financial security.



Elegant Residence in Wynnton!

—AND—

An Excellent Farm 2 1-2 Miles from the City.

THE PROPERTY OF THE LATE COL. JOHN M STARKE.

AT Administrator's Sale, Nov. 6, 1877, by order of the Court of Ordinary of Muscogee County, Ga., will be sold on the first Tuesday in November next, at public auction, during the legal hours of sale, at the corner of Crawford and Broad Streets, opposite the Rankin House, the place of holding public sales, Columbus, Ga., the following desirable real estate, lately belonging to John M. Starke, deceased :—

The dwelling house, lot and improvements in Wynnton, containing 8 or 10 acres of land, the residence of the late Col. Starke, situated about one mile from the city, in an excellent, pleasant and healthy neighborhood, The dwelling contains six rooms with large halls, &c., all necessary outbuildings and good water. The grounds are handsomely improved.

Also, at the same time and place, will be sold one hundred acres of land of lot No. 108, in the Coweta Reserve, lying on and south of the St. Mary's Road, known as the land bought from Frank C. Johnston by J. M. Starke. Upon this land there is a good framed dwelling with 4 rooms, a new gin house and a new iron screw.

Mary Grier Starke, the widow, received guidance in the handling of the estate from Bennett H. Crawford, the Columbus attorney who served as administrator.[19] Out of an apparent need to liquidate what remained of the Starke holdings as quickly as possible, Mr. Crawford published an eye-catching advertisement that appeared over a period of weeks in Columbus's *Daily Enquirer-Sun* **(at left).** The notice indicated that John M. Starke's Wynnton property (ten or so acres) and his property on Bull Creek (100 acres) would be sold in November of that same year at public auction.[20] Despite the threat of the 1877 auction, the Wynnton property remained in the possession of Mary Starke in the summer of 1880, when yet another notice regarding the disposal of the estate appeared in the *Columbus Sunday Enquirer*. The same ten acres, along with a dwelling containing "six large and comfortable rooms," on

---

wife was Henrietta Fontaine, daughter of John Fontaine, first Mayor of Columbus, Georgia. The Flewellens were also related to the Shorters of Eufaula, Alabama. For details concerning the many interesting connections between the Flewellens and related families (including the Shepherds), see Henrietta McCormick Hill's *The Family Skeleton: A History and Genealogy of the Flewellen, Fontaine, Copeland, Treutlen, McCormick, Allan, and Stuart Families* (Montgomery, Alabama, 1958). In her book, Mrs. Hill mentions James T. Flewellen's plantation in Quitman County, as well as the one in Russell County, and the fact that he returned from the Civil War "a poor man" who, according to family legend, shot a man who came to serve papers on him for purposes of settling debts, (62-63).

[18] "Muscogee Sheriff Sale," *Daily Columbus Enquirer*, January 4, 1871, 4, accessed June 25, 2016, http://infoweb.newsbank.com; this notice, which also appeared in editions of the newspaper over the several weeks that followed, suggests that John M. Starke had become entangled, along with James T. Flewellen and others, in another legal transaction that involved the loss of property.

[19] "Death of Hon. Bennett H. Crawford," *Columbus Daily Enquirer-Sun*, August 23, 1894, 4, accessed June 25, 2016, http://infoweb.newsbank.com; obituary indicates that Bennett H. Crawford, a native of Harris County, was the brother of Judge Martin J. Crawford, who served on the bench of the Georgia Supreme Court.

[20] "Elegant Residence in Wynnton! and an Excellent Farm 2½ Miles from the City. The Property of the Late Col. John M. Starke," *Columbus Sunday Enquirer*, October 7, 1877, 3, accessed July 28, 2016, http://enquirer.galileo.usg.edu. This detailed advertisement serves as a guide to the Starke land holdings in Muscogee County at the time of John M. Starke's death. The advertisement mentions Colonel Starke's 100 acres on Bull Creek and "the balance of the farm [319 acres], which belongs to Mrs. Mary E. Starke and to Mrs. Starke and her children." The location of the farm was described as "2½ miles from the city on Bull Creek, reaching from the St. Mary's to the Cusseta Roads."

"Mrs. Starke's Place, in Wynnton," were for sale or rent.[21]

In the 1880 Muscogee County census, taken on June 24 of that year, the Starke household included Mary Grier Starke (age 49); daughter, Sallie (age 22); son, John (age 18); and four servants—all of them black and one of them, interestingly enough, named Robert Grier (age 25). In addition to Robert Grier, there was Mary (age 22), presumably his wife, and Charles (age 2) listed as "son." Betsy Madison (age 32) served as the cook.[22]

By the fall of 1881, however, Mary Starke had vacated the family's house on Starke Avenue (which was probably being rented at the time for income) and moved with her two surviving children, Sallie and John, to the Perry House in downtown Columbus. Later known as the Racine Hotel, the Perry House was an imposing structure at the northeast corner of Thirteenth Street and First Avenue referred to as an "elegant mansion house" in at least one advertisement of the period.[23] Given the size of the establishment, it is likely that apartments amounted to suites of two, three, or more rooms. Among the residents of the Perry House in 1881, at the time known as a "private boarding house" run by Mrs. Lou de Antignac, were members of the local Shepherd family.[24]

Given the degree to which these individuals shared longstanding and close relationships, the importance of the intricately complicated connections that existed between members of the Starke and Shepherd families—connections that also included Flewellen family members, some of whom were related to the Shepherds—should not be underestimated. Even the genealogies of property ownership contain telling links between these families and explain, at least in part, how Colonel Starke managed to find his way so directly to what would become Starke Avenue in Wynnton, having come with his wife and children from deep in southwest Georgia at the close of the Civil War.

In the abstract of title prepared for Mrs. Rhodes Browne in 1917, the earliest documented owner of the property on Starke Avenue was identified as William H. Chambers, who sold the property in 1854 to Mrs. Elvira Flewellen. The property later passed to Mrs. Flewellen's son, Abner Chapman Flewellen, who sold it in 1861 to Hugh Dawson.[25] Mr. Dawson's wife, Elizabeth ("Lizzie") Flewellen, was the sister of Abner C. Flewellen; he married Sarah Porter Shepherd (daughter of Anne Smythe and Albert Hillhouse Shepherd). Mr. Flewellen was also the first cousin of James Thweatt Flewellen, who through business

---

[21] "For Sale or for Rent,"*Columbus Sunday Enquirer*, July 25, 1880, 3, accessed July 28, 2016, http://enquirer.galileo.usg.edu.

[22] U.S. Federal Census, 1880, Georgia, Muscogee County, 57. "Robert Grier" is a name that figures prominently in the genealogy of Mary Grier Starke; see Part I for related references.

[23] Advertisement for Perry House, *Columbus Daily Sun*, April 29, 1870, 2, accessed July 23, 2016, http://infoweb.newsbank.com.

[24] "Moving Day. People Who Move and Where They May Be Found," *Columbus Daily Enquirer*, October 1, 1881, 4, accessed June 25, 2016, http://infoweb.newsbank.com. Harriet ("Hattie") Mason, sister of Irene Mason Starke (Mary Starke's future daughter-in-law), married Albert Wynn Shepherd, who was one of the Shepherds at the Perry House in 1881.

[25] See Note 4, "The Starkes of Starke Avenue: Mary E. Grier and John M. Starke," Part I, *Muscogiana*, Spring 2012, 1.

dealings became associated with Colonel Starke as early as the 1850s.[26] Moreover, Starke's daughter-in-law, Irene Mason, was the sister of Harriet ("Hattie") Mason, who became the wife of Albert Wynn Shepherd (son of Eliza Wynn and Edward Thomson Shepherd). Underscoring the bonds between their families, in 1881, Starke's daughter, Sallie, served as an attendant at the wedding of Charlotte Woodville Shepherd (sister of Albert W. Shepherd) and James Thweatt. The bride, "Woodie" Shepherd Thweatt, and Sarah Shepherd Flewellen were first cousins.[27] Not to be overlooked is the very significant connection that the Starkes and the Shepherds shared to the orphans' home for girls in Columbus: Sallie Starke worked as the matron of the orphans' home for the better part of the first two decades of the twentieth century, and Col. William Smythe Shepherd (whose sister was Sarah Shepherd Flewellen) left the family home, "Hillhouse," for use by the orphans at his death in 1924.[28]

In the fall of 1882, Bennett H. Crawford, the attorney who remained faithful to the Starkes over a span of years, placed a newspaper advertisement for purposes of selling the Starke property in Wynnton. The advertisement read, in part: "I also offer for sale upon easy terms the Starke place, in Wynnton, a very desirable residence near the brick academy, containing ten acres of land. The house has six rooms, with double hall, surrounded by beautiful grounds, high and healthy, with good water."[29] In 1883, the attorney placed yet another advertisement for "Mrs. Starke's Place, in Wynnton" in the *Columbus Sunday Enquirer*.[30]

When Mary Starke, just past her fifty-third birthday, died in January of the following year (her house in Wynnton still not sold), she was apparently living at the Rankin Hotel.[31] Her obituary, which

---

[26] (See Note 17).

[27] Like many other surnames, "Wynn" is spelled in more than one way. Even though "Wynn" (without the final "e") appears more often than not in records associated with this family, Eliza Wynn Shepherd's tombstone at Linwood Cemetery reads: "Wynne." The DAR membership paper of Charlotte Woodville ("Woodie") Shepherd (Mrs. James T. Thweatt), transcribed version of which is contained in a published lineage book of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution (Vol. 38, DAR No. 36103), shows "Eliza Wynn" as the wife of Edward T. Shepherd. (See also notes 24 and 61).

[28] Etta Blanchard Worsley, *Columbus on the Chattahoochee* (Columbus: Columbus Office Supply Company, 1951), 370; Mrs. Worsley writes: "In March, 1925, the Girls' Orphans' Home moved to 'Hillhouse,' the beautiful home and estate left them not far from the present St. Elmo School. It was a bequest of the late Colonel William S. Shepherd, an idea which his sister, Mrs. A.C. Flewellen, had urged before her death when the property belonged to both. It was named, to honor the memory of their mother, the 'Ann Elizabeth Shepherd Orphans' Home.'" (Despite Worsley's punctiliousness, "Ann" should be spelled "Anne.") Colonel Shepherd's gift was also reported in *The Industrial Index* in 1925; the April 29th issue carried a photograph of the Shepherd home on Page 48 and reported: "The children moved into the new home April 1, and are delighted with the house and its lovely grounds. There are 26 children in the home at present." *The Industrial Index* article also contained the following: "The Anne Elizabeth Shepherd Home...occupies the entire block between Fifteenth and Sixteenth avenues and between Twentieth and Twenty-first streets; facing on Twentieth street."

[29] "For Sale. An Excellent Farm in Muscogee County and an Elegant Residence in Wynnton," *Columbus Daily Enquirer-Sun*, September 3, 1882, 3.

[30] "Wynnton Residence For Sale," *Columbus Sunday Enquirer*, July 8, 1883, 2, accessed July 28, 2016, http://enquirer.galileo.usg.edu.

[31] Called the "Rankin House" in her obituary, the hotel was yet another downtown boarding establishment of note. One advertisement in a Columbus newspaper claimed that it "will...assume a position among the first-class hotels of the land, there is no room to doubt"; *Daily Columbus Enquirer*, October 25, 1870, 3, accessed June 25, 2016, http://infoweb.newsbank.com

includes irregularities with regard to punctuation and capitalization, appeared in the *Columbus Daily Enquirer* on January 19, 1884:

Death of Mrs. Mary E. Starke

> *The announcement of the death of Mrs. Mary E. Starke which occurred at the Rankin House yesterday afternoon at 1:30 o'clock, will be read with regret by her numerous friends this morning. Mrs. Starke was one of our noblest women, and was universally beloved by all who knew her. The gentleness of her disposition and the purity of her character gave her a strong influence for good, which she exerted over all with whom she came in contact. The death of such an excellent lady is a serious loss to any community. Mrs. Starke was the daughter of the lamented James Grier, who, before the war, was one of our wealthiest river planters. She was born in Stewart County, Ga., in December, 1830, and when she grew up to womanhood, was married to Col John M Starke, who preceded her to the grave eight years ago. She leaves two children, Mr. John T Starke and Miss Sallie Starke, who have the sincere sympathy of this entire community in their sad bereavement. The funeral will take place from the Presbyterian church at 10:30 o'clock this morning.*[32]

Bennett H. Crawford, one of her pallbearers and administrator of John M. Starke's estate, also became administrator of Mary Starke's estate. His *Columbus Daily Enquirer-Sun* advertisement, which appeared in print only a few months after Mrs. Starke's death, would result in the sale, finally, of her Wynnton property to H. H. Epping in the spring of 1884 for $2,000.[33]

John T. Starke and Irene Mason

Even though the graves of Mary E. Grier and her husband, John M. Starke, were covered until the fall of 2012 with only concrete slabs bearing no names and no dates, the graves of their son, John T. Starke, and his wife, Irene Mason, were marked—not long after their respective deaths—with handsome tombstones that contain detailed information. John T. Starke's marker includes a specific reference to the fact that he was born in Eufaula, Alabama on August 5, 1861 and died in Columbus on November 18, 1889. His wife's marker indicates that she was born on July 26, 1865 and died on May 14, 1928.

Irene Mason and John T. Starke were married in her widowed father's Columbus home on December 23, 1884, according to the announcement that appeared in Columbus's *Daily Enquirer-Sun* on

---

[32] "Death of Mrs. Mary E. Starke," *Columbus Daily Enquirer-Sun*, January 19,1884, 4, accessed June 25, 2016, http://infoweb.newsbank.com. Pallbearers at Mary Starke's funeral, which was held at First Presbyterian Church (located only a matter of blocks away from the Rankin Hotel in downtown Columbus), were Mayor Clifford B. Grimes, Lloyd G. Bowers, DeWitt F. Willcox, Albert Shepherd, L.C. Frazer, and Bennett H. Crawford; "Funeral of Mrs. Mary E. Starke," *Columbus Sunday Enquirer*, January 20, 1884, 3, accessed July 28, 2016, http://enquirer.galileo.usg.edu.

[33] "Administrator's Sale," *Columbus Daily Enquirer*, May 1 1884, 2. "Real Estate Transfers Recorded During the Month of May," *Columbus Daily Enquirer-Sun*, June 1, 1884, p. 3; included in the list of real estate transfers is the following: "B.H. Crawford, administrator of Mary E. Starke, to H.H. Epping, the Starke place in Coweta Reserve, for $2,000."

the following day, Christmas Eve.[34] The groom's mother had died in January of that same year. Twenty-seven-year-old Sallie Starke, John T. Starke's sister, was the only other member of the Starke family still living at the time of her brother's wedding. Three years after their marriage, Irene Mason and John T. Starke became parents of a son and apparently only child, John Thomas Starke, born in Columbus on December 16, 1887.[35]

---

[34] "A Happy Union," *Columbus Daily Enquirer-Sun*, December 24, 1884, 4, accessed July 28, 2016, http://enquirer.galileo.usg.edu.

[35] World War I registration card of John Thomas Starke, which shows his date of birth, December 16, 1887. Oddly enough, there was another John Thomas Starke of the era, who was born in Columbus in 1888 or 1889 (depending on source) and died in 1973 in Bibb County, Georgia. He, too, registered for the World War I draft. There is no known familial connection between the two John Thomas Starkes (not even remotely), despite the very unlikely similarities involving their dates of birth, their names, their places of birth (both in Columbus), and even their places of death (both in Bibb County, Georgia). John Thomas Starke (b. 1888), a member of the Starke family with close ties to Russell County, was the son of James T. Starke, who is almost always mentioned in city directory entries devoted to his widowed wife, Sallie (e.g., *Sallie Starke, widow of James*). In the 1900 census of Russell County (Seale), Alabama, John Thomas Starke (whose date of birth is given as November 1889, though his draft registration card indicates November 1888) is listed with his father, James (b. December 1852), and his mother, Sallie (b. December 1861). In the 1910 Muscogee County census, Sallie Starke, seamstress, is identified as a widowed "roomer" and mother of one child; her address is Tenth Street. Because John Thomas Starke and his mother, Sallie, who went to Bibb County as early as 1912, were listed in the Columbus city directories at the same time that John Thomas Starke (son of Irene Mason and John T. Starke) and his aunt, Sallie Starke (daughter of Mary Grier and John M. Starke), were also listed, there could be confusion on the part of those who are not paying close attention. The Columbus city directory of 1910, for example, contains an entry for Sallie Starke (widow of James) and one for Sallie H. Starke (matron of the orphans' home), and both names appear on Page 441. The only other Starke listed in the 1910 directory is John Starke, a telephone operator, who is boarding at 1002 Fourth Avenue—where his mother, Sallie Starke (widow of James), is also boarding. Just as the two Sallie Starkes are both found in the 1910 city directory, the two John Thomas Starkes are both listed in the 1906 city directory. Finally, in 1912, with the publication of the city directory of Macon (Bibb County), the two John Starkes and the two Sallie Starkes were separated geographically. In the 1912 Macon directory, Sallie Starke, the "widow of James T.," is living with her son John T. Starke on Appleton Avenue. By the time of the 1924 Macon directory, John T. Starke is listed with a wife, Dolly, and his mother, Sallie (the "widow of James T."); they are living together at 102 Troupe Street in Macon. Sallie Starke (widow of James) died in 1929 in Bibb County. John T. Starke's obituary in the *Macon Telegraph* (June 2, 1973), mentions his Troupe Street address, the fact that he was 84 years old, that he was a retired dispatcher for the Central of Georgia Railroad, and that he had lived in Macon for 61 years; parents are not mentioned, although he is called "a native of Columbus." John T. Starke's mother, the former Sallie Bennett, is found in the 1880 federal census of Russell County, Alabama, with a brother, J. T. Bennett. This same child is later identified as *John Bennett* in the 1900 census of Russell County. Thus, it is quite likely that Sallie Bennett Starke's son, John T. Starke, was named for her brother, John T. Bennett. This branch of the Starke family, which is associated with William Thomas Starke and Margaret Virginia Marks (parents of James Thomas Starke), is discussed in Mary B. Starke's "Starke Family" summary (entry number F311) that appears in *The History of Russell County, Alabama,* which was published by the Russell County Historical Commission in 1982.

This photograph, which was almost certainly taken at the time of his sister's photographic portrait by the same photographer (using the same tufted furniture and purple drape as props), shows John T. Starke as a child. The handwritten note on the back of this ca. 1870 *carte de visite* amounts to only "Jhonnie Stark" (which should have probably been *Johnnie*) and "Columbus, Georgia." The note is in the same distinctive script that was used to identify Sallie Starke in her photographic portrait by Mr. Van Riper. Some fourteen years after John T. Starke posed for this picture, he and Irene Mason were married in Columbus on December 23, 1884. Their son, John Thomas Starke, was the only grandchild of the first Starkes in Wynnton, Mary E. Grier and John M. Starke.

Courtesy of the Edith Kyle Crawford Collection, Columbus State University

Only two years after the birth of his son, John T. Starke died in 1889 at 28 years of age. The following appeared in the *Columbus Enquirer-Sun:*

Death of Mr. J.T. Starke

Death is always sad, but when it cuts down a young man upon the threshold of a useful and happy life it seems cruel. When Mr. Jno. T. Starke died yesterday morning at 4 o'clock a bright light went out in a once happy home. He had been married scarcely five years and a loving wife and a beautiful child were his companions. About a year ago paralysis laid its heavy hand upon him, and he never again was able to leave his house. He bore his affliction with remarkable patience and fortitude, knowing that death was inevitable... Mr. John T. Starke was the son of the lamented Mr. J.M. Starke. He was born near Eufaula [,] August 5, 1861. He came to Columbus when but a child—in 1865—and has since resided here. In 1884 he married Miss Irene Mason. When he was taken ill he was a member of the firm of Starke & Riddle, grocers. The funeral will take place from the residence in Wynnton at 10:30 o'clock this morning.[36]

This photograph of Irene Mason Starke appeared in the 1916 yearbook produced by Brenau College, where she began her faculty assignment as professor of Latin and German in 1910. The daughter of a Columbus physician, Dr. John James Mason, Mrs. Starke was the only daughter-in-law of Colonel John M. Starke. (Starke had no sons-in-law.)

Courtesy of Special Collections, Brenau University

His widow, Irene Mason Starke, was a woman of extraordinary accomplishments, especially given the time and place in which she was raised. Indeed, the Mason family of Columbus—another one seemingly as "extinct" as the Starkes—deserves its own extended research and discussion. Irene Mason was the daughter of pioneer Columbus physician John James Mason and his wife, Catherine Rogers, both of whom are buried in the Mason lot near the entrance to Linwood Cemetery in Columbus.[37]

---

[36] "Death of Mr. J.T. Starke," *Columbus Enquirer-Sun*, November 19, 1889, 4, accessed July 28, 2016, http://enquirer.galileo.usg.edu. The reference to his residence in Wynnton suggests that he and his wife, Irene, were living not far from the Starke Avenue property owned by his parents, which had been sold shortly after his mother's death in 1884. The city directory of 1888 identifies John T. Starke's residence as 314 Thirteenth Street.

[37] "Dr. J.J. Mason Dies Suddenly," *Columbus Ledger-Enquirer Sun*, January 14, 1902, 8. The obituary states that Dr. Mason was "76 years of age" and born "near Wetumpka., Ala., and removed to Columbus shortly after the close of the civil war." In a tribute to Dr. Mason that appeared in the same Columbus newspaper five days later (January 19,

Information published by the University of Chicago, where Irene Starke was enrolled in the graduate school at the turn of the century, indicates that she received a bachelor's degree in Latin from the Columbus Female Seminary Academy in 1883—the year before she married John Starke.[38] The Masons were parents of the following children, all of whom were raised in Columbus: Martha Jane ("Mattie") Mason (Mrs. William Henry Harrison Williams), Emma Reese Mason (Mrs. John William Walton Drake), Catherine ("Kate") Mason (Mrs. John Calvin Cheney), William ("Willie") Mason, Harriet ("Hattie") Mason (Mrs. Albert Wynn Shepherd), Albert Mason, Irene Mason (Mrs. John T. Starke), George H. Mason, and Adelaide ("Addie") Mason (Mrs. William Joseph Leppert).[39]

In the 1890s, as a young widow and mother of a small child, Mrs. Starke became affiliated with several private schools in Columbus. She was also involved with the local kindergarten association.[40] By

---

1902) on Page 6, his place of birth is given as Greensboro, Georgia, and his date of birth, July 23, 1826. In the July 16, 1893 issue of the *Columbus Enquirer-Sun*, on Page 5, there is the following: "Dr. J.J. Mason said yesterday morning that he came here in 1866 and there were seventeen physicians here then and now he is the only one living of that number."

[38] *Annual Register, University of Chicago: July, 1899 to July, 1900* (Chicago: University of Chicago, 1900), 416; entry for Irene Mason Starke indicates that she received a degree (A.B. in Latin) from "Columbus Female" (which was short for the Columbus Female Academy) in 1883 and that her home address was Columbus, Ga.; a reference to her studies in Chicago was also found in the August 13, 1899 issue of Columbus's *Sunday Herald* on Page 5: "Mrs. Irine [sic] Stark [sic] returned from Chicago last Friday, where she has been taking a summer course in the university."

[39] Emma Mason (sister of Irene Mason Starke) is identified as "Mrs. John William Walton Drake" in the article that describes the wedding ceremony of Adelaide Grimes Mason (sister of Irene and Emma) and Timothy Lyne Jones (*Columbus Enquirer-Sun*, April 3, 1904, 4). Emma Mason and J.W.W. Drake were married in Columbus on December 26, 1877. The Drake wedding announcement, which refers to the groom as "Dr. Walton Drake, of Auburn, Alabama," was published in the *Columbus Daily Enquirer-Sun*, December 27, 1877, 4. Almost 35 years later, Mrs. Drake's obituary reported that her death occurred "at the home of her brother-in-law, Mr. Albert Shepherd, in Wynnton," and states that she was the widow of the late J.W.W. Drake and "the second daughter of the late Dr. J.J. Mason." Named in the obituary were "her only surviving child...Mrs. John Canty," and siblings: W.R. and A. S. Mason of Chicago; George S. Mason of Columbus; Mrs. W. H. Williams of Madison, Georgia; Mrs. John C. Cheney of Montgomery; Mrs. W.J. Leppert of Camden, Alabama; and "Mrs. Irene Stark [sic] of Columbus (teacher in Gainesville, Ga.)." Cantey and Starke surnames are both misspelled in the obituary ("Mrs. Drake Passes Away: One of Columbus' Most Highly Esteemed Ladies Dies Suddenly," *Columbus Enquirer-Sun*, September 24, 1912, 5). Of special interest, as much for the value of the coincidence as for the information itself, is the fact that John William Walton Drake (who married Emma R. Mason in Columbus in 1877) was the son of John William Wallace Drake (who married his second wife, Emma C. Mason, in Macon County, Alabama, in 1863). John William Walton Drake, whose death occurred unexpectedly in Birmingham, Alabama ("Drake's Tragic Death," *Columbus Enquirer-Sun*, October 22, 1889, 1), was buried in Pine Hill Cemetery, Auburn, Alabama, near his mother Volecia Mitchell Drake, first wife of John William Wallace Drake. In "The Revolutionary War in North Carolina: Narrative of John Hodges Drake, of Nash County," (*Publications of the Southern History Association*, Vol. IV, 1900), John William Wallace Drake is mentioned on Page 14 as one of five sons—all named "John"—born to Frances Williams and John Hodges Drake. In the 1860 federal census of Macon County, Alabama, Catherine (later known as "Kate") and Harriet (later known as "Hattie") were listed in the household with three siblings: Martha, Emma, and William. By the time of the 1870 census, the Mason family had moved to Columbus (Muscogee County), and three additional children appeared in the household: Albert, Irene, and George. The youngest child, Adelaide (age 7), appeared for the first time in the 1880 census of Muscogee County. Adelaide Mason married William Joseph Leppert in 1909, after the death of her first husband, Timothy Jones, in 1906.

[40] "Opening of the Columbus College," *Columbus Daily Enquirer-Sun*, September 19, 1894, 4, which mentioned the school's new location in a house at the corner of Twelfth Street and Third Avenue and the fact that there would be "a room for Latin, presided over by Miss Stark [sic]." In "A Flourishing Institution," *Columbus Daily Enquirer-Sun*, July 15, 1896, 4, there was discussion of Columbus's Home School for girls and young ladies, with a reference to Irene Mason Starke as teacher of Latin and Natural Science. *Columbus Enquirer-Sun*, August 22, 1897, 3, contained an advertisement announcing the fact that "Mrs. Irent [sic] Mason Starke will open a select school for girls on Sept. 22,

1899, Irene Starke had joined the faculty of Shorter College (Rome, Georgia), where she remained until the end of the school year in 1909.[41]

In 1903, while teaching at Shorter, Mrs. Starke was mentioned in the *Atlanta Constitution*, along with her son: "Mrs. Irene Mason Starke and John Starke will spend the summer with Miss Agnes Spencer on the coast of Maine."[42] In the following year the *Columbus Enquirer-Sun* reported: "Mrs. Irene Stark [sic] and son, John Stark [sic], arrived on the Southern last evening. Mrs. Stark [sic], who has been teaching at Shorter College, Rome, is home for the summer. This is her first visit home in two years, she and her son having spent last summer on the coast of Maine. The latter has just graduated from the high school at Madison, Georgia, where he made a bright and credible record."[43]

According to her passport application filed at the American Embassy in London on September 20, 1906, Irene Starke departed from the United States on September 8 of that year. In her application, she stated that she was born in Auburn, Alabama, on July 26, 1865, and that she was a permanent resident of Columbus. She was 41 years old at the time and described herself as a five foot, six inch tall woman with a high forehead, brown eyes, brown hair, and a straight nose.[44] During this trip abroad, Mrs. Starke pursued studies at the Royal University of Berlin.[45]

In 1910, Irene Starke began her teaching career at Brenau College and Conservatory (Gainesville, Georgia). The *Atlanta Constitution*, in July of that year, announced that Irene Mason Starke would soon become Brenau's Professor of Latin and German. The same news story mentioned two more women with Columbus connections, Miss Elizabeth Fleming Waddell and Miss Sallie Nash Waddell, who would be hired as Brenau's professors of history/sociology and mathematics, respectively.[46] These same three women were mentioned several years later in the *Columbus Enquirer-Sun,* all in the context of their professorial duties at Brenau: "Misses Elizabeth Clason, Louise Battle, Edna Crawford, Bertha Giddens, Nellie Boyce and Louise Pearce will go to popular Brenau college and conservatory of music. Three of our

---

1897"; interested parties were asked to "apply to 1015 Fourth Avenue." Mrs. Starke's involvement in the kindergarten association was reported in "Kindergarten Association. Reorganization Was Effected at a Large and Enthusiastic Meeting Last Night," *Columbus Enquirer-Sun*, October 22, 1897, 3. See also Worsley, 333.

[41] Email message to the author from Rebecca Roberts, Director, Shorter University Museum & Archives, April 24, 2012; Ms. Roberts wrote: "Irene Starke was on the faculty as a professor of Latin from 1899-1909."

[42] While in Maine that summer, the Starkes attended the wedding of Agnes Spencer and Stanford Moses on August 24, 1903 (*Columbus Enquirer-Sun*, August 23, 1903, 6), accessed June 19, 2016, http://infoweb.newsbank.com. Agnes Spencer, like Irene Mason Starke, taught in the informal network of private schools in 1890s Columbus; Miss Spencer taught at The Spencer School (located in a building at Second Avenue and Eleventh Street), which was run by her mother, Helen Spencer (Mrs. Lambert Spencer). For more about these private schools of the late nineteenth century, see Worsley, 332.

[43] "Personal Mention," *Columbus Enquirer-Sun*, June 22, 1904, 3, accessed June 19, 2016, http://infoweb.newsbank.com.

[44] "U.S. Passport Applications, 1795-1925," digital images, *Ancestry.com* (http://ancestry.com): accessed June 19, 2016, application for Irene Mason Starke, No. 340, dated September 20, 1906.

[45] "Social News and Gossip of Week in Columbus: Short Notes and Personals," *Columbus Enquirer-Sun*, June 24, 1906, 6.

[46] "Splendid Faculty Secured by Brenau," *Atlanta Constitution*, July 24, 1910, B8; article contains reference to new faculty members and mentions "Miss Irene Mason Starke" (which should be "Mrs.") as a teacher of Latin and German.

brainiest women—we still claim them—are teachers in this college. They are Mrs. Irene Mason Starke, professor of Latin, Miss Bessie Waddell, professor of History, and Miss Sallie Waddell, professor of Mathematics."[47] In the following year, the three female academics from Columbus were touted once more: "Columbus feels a special interest and pride in Brenau, for it was founded by Dr. Haywood J. Pearce, of this city, and among the faculty are three well known educators from Columbus—Miss Elizabeth Waddell, who has the chair of history; Miss Sallie N. Waddell, the chair of mathematics, and Mrs. Irene Mason Starke, who has the chair of Latin."[48]

The local press also reported on Mrs. Starke's trip during the summer of 1914 to New York, where she took courses at Columbia University. In the relationship-rich item published in August 1914, which mentions Mrs. Starke and her niece, Louise Drake Cantey, evidence of the close rapport between these two women (and later between Mrs. Cantey and Mrs. Starke's son) is well worth noting: "Mrs. John Cantey has gone over to Madison, Ga., for a visit to relatives and will later leave her children with their grandmother, Mrs. Bellamy, and join her [aunt], Mrs. Irene Mason Starke in New York. Mrs. Starke is taking a summer [course] at Columbia University... Mrs. Cantey and Mrs. Starke will drop down to Weaversville for a breath of mountain air next, and Mrs. Starke's Columbus friends hope that she will find time to come here for a day or two before returning to her school duties."[49]

According to her *Atlanta Constitution* obituary, Irene Mason Starke moved to Atlanta in 1916. It is certainly possible, though, that she relocated even as late as the end of 1918. In 1919, she began teaching at the Washington Seminary, where she was on the faculty of the exclusive school for young women that later merged with present-day Westminster Schools of Atlanta.[50] Her obituary, part of which is reproduced below (and includes several factual errors), sums up her accomplishments succinctly. Capitalization is shown as it appears in the original publication:

---

[47] "In Social Realms," *Columbus Enquirer-Sun*, September 7, 1913, 18.

[48] "Society," *Columbus Ledger*, May 31, 1914, 4. Professor Pearce and several of the same faculty members mentioned in the 1914 newspaper entry taught in the 1890s at Pearce's College in Columbus; the school was located in the Lion House (Worsley, 332-333).

[49] "Society and News of Interest to Women," *Columbus Enquirer-Sun*, August 2, 1914, 12. "Mrs. Bellamy," mother-in-law of Louise Drake Cantey, was Martha Benton Cantey Bellamy (1839-1928). After the death of Mrs. Bellamy's first husband, Gen. James Cantey (1818-1874), she married Capt. Richard H. Bellamy (1829-1907). For more information, see Stephen A. Townsend's "Biography of Richard Henry Bellamy, Martha Elizabeth Benton and James Cantey," which was written in 2009 and is attached to the Ancestry.com profiles of Gen. James Cantey, Martha Benton (his wife), and Richard H. Bellamy (Martha Benton Cantey's second husband); accessed July 26, 2016, http://person.ancestry.com/tree/10956636/person/-551507598/gallery.

[50] According to an email message sent to the author on September 12, 2012, from Pamela Nye, Director of Archives, The Westminster Schools, it appears that Irene Starke joined the Washington Seminary faculty in the fall of 1919, which was, interestingly enough, the year after Margaret Mitchell (author of *Gone With the Wind*) completed her studies at the school—in the spring of 1918. As of the end of 1919, given information in a report published by the Georgia Department of Education in 1920, Mrs. Starke earned $800.00, as an annual salary, at Washington Seminary. *Forty-Eighth Annual Report of the Department of Education to the General Assembly of the State of Georgia for the School Year Ending December 31, 1919* (Atlanta: Byrd Printing Company, 1920), 310.

MRS. IRENE STARKE DIES IN HER OFFICE

The body of Mrs. Irene Mason Starke, 63, of 11 Roanoke avenue, head of the department of history at Washington seminary, who died Monday, will be taken at 7:15 o'clock this morning to Columbus, Ga., for funeral services and burial... Mrs. Starke was found dead about 8:30 o'clock Monday morning in her office shortly after her son, John T. Starke, had brought her to the school, before leaving on a business trip to middle Georgia. Heart trouble was given as the cause. A native of Columbus and the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. J.J. Mason, Mrs. Starke attended the Columbus Female college, Columbia university, the University of Chicago and the Royal university of Berlin. On her return from Germany, Mrs. Starke became connected with the Brenau college faculty, and later was professor of Latin at Shorter colege [sic]. She removed to Atlanta 12 years ago and became a member of the Washington seminary faculty. She leaves her son; a sister, Mrs. W.J. Leppert; two brothers, George and W.R. Mason, of Columbus, and a sister-in-law, Miss Sallie Starke.[51]

Sarah Starke, Matron of the Orphans' Home for Girls

The daughter of the first Starkes on what is now Starke Avenue, Sarah ("Sallie"), born in 1857, came from southwest Georgia to Columbus in 1865 with her parents, Mary Grier and John M. Starke. She would later serve for eighteen consecutive years as matron of the orphans' home for girls in Columbus. Miss Starke was probably no more than thirteen years old at the time that she posed for this photograph.

Courtesy of the Edith Kyle Crawford Collection, Columbus State University

[51] "Mrs. Irene Starke Dies in Her Office," *Atlanta Constitution*, May 15, 1928, 6; although the obituary states that she was born in Columbus, her passport application of 1906 (see Note 45) indicates that she was born in Auburn, Alabama, which is where her father, Dr. Mason, lived and practiced before coming to Columbus in 1866 (see Note 37). In truth, she was no more than a year old when she came to Columbus with her parents. At least one other error in the obituary is related to the chronology of her teaching appointments: she taught at Shorter *before* she taught at Brenau.

In August 1881, only weeks before the Columbus newspaper's report concerning the Starkes' arrival at the Perry House in downtown Columbus, "Sallie H. Starke" sold "a one-story brick stone house known as number thirty eight (38) Broad Street" to Anna C. Benning for $1,550.00.[52] The deed was witnessed by Mary E. Starke, Sallie Starke's mother, and by Bennett H. Crawford, the attorney involved in settling John M. Starke's estate and later Mary E. Starke's estate. The house on Broadway might have been a small piece of property made available to Sallie Starke by her father in his more prosperous days. That same year, in a newspaper account that bore the title "Cupid's Work," Sallie Starke was mentioned as an attendant at the wedding of Charlotte Woodville ("Woodie") Shepherd and James T. Thweatt. The ceremony, which began at 8:30 p.m., occurred at Columbus's First Presbyterian Church.[53] Miss Starke had turned 24 years old only two months before the wedding.

Ten years later, in 1891, Sallie Starke's name was published in the Columbus city directory as "Miss Sarah Starke."[54] At the time of the compilation of the 1900 directory, she resided at 411 Fourteenth Street, calling herself a "seamstress."[55] Likewise, the 1900 census of Muscogee County (taken in the summer of that year) showed *Sarah Stark* [sic] a single woman (age 42) working as a "seamstress" and living on Fourth Avenue at Fourteenth Street."[56] By the time of the 1902 city directory's publication, however, "Miss Sallie H. Starke" was identified as the matron of the Columbus Female Orphan Asylum, and her residence listed as the home for orphans.[57] According to the 1904 directory, "Miss Sallie H. Starke" still resided at the home for orphans, located at 1445 Fourth Avenue.[58] The 1910 Muscogee County census recorded that "Sallie H. Starke" (age 52) continued to reside on the west side of Fourth Avenue—at number 1445. There, at the orphans' home, she lived with twenty-eight "inmates" who were girls and young women (all of them white) from 4 to 18 years of age.[59]

In 1904, at the annual meeting of the Ladies' Educational and Benevolent Association of Columbus, the group which maintained the "Orphan Girls' Home," Sallie Starke ("who has served very efficiently as manager for several years") won re-election to her position.[60] Various references to Miss

---

[52] Deed Records and Mortgages, Muscogee County, Georgia, August 1881.
[53] "Cupid's Work: Marriages in the City Yesterday and Last Night," *Columbus Daily Enquirer-Sun*, December 2, 1881, 4, accessed July 23, 2016, http://infoweb.newsbank.com.
[54] At the time of the 1891-92 city directory of Columbus, "Miss Sarah Starke" was boarding in Wynnton. The only other Starke in that year's directory was Sallie Starke's sister-in-law, Irene M. Starke, who was identified as the widow of J.T. Starke and a resident of 1505 First Avenue.
[55] *Walsh's Columbus, Georgia, City Directory for 1900*. Charleston: Lucas & Richardson, 1900, 370.
[56] U.S. Federal Census, 1900, Georgia, Muscogee County, Columbus Ward 1, 6B.
[57] *Walsh's Directory of the City of Columbus, Ga. for 1902*. Charleston: W.H. Walsh Directory Company, 1902, 414.
[58] *Walsh's Directory of the City of Columbus, Ga., and Girard and Phenix City, Ala. for 1904* ,428.
[59] U.S. Federal Census, 1910, Georgia, Muscogee County, Columbus Ward 1, 7B.
[60] "Same Officers for Orphan Girls' Home," *Columbus Enquirer-Sun*, May 1, 1904, 16, accessed July 23, 2016, http://infoweb.newsbank.com. The orphans' home would later be known as the Anne Elizabeth Shepherd Home, which received generous support from the estate of Col. William Smythe Shepherd, son of Anne Elizabeth Smythe Shepherd. Colonel Shepherd (a bachelor) and Albert Wynn Shepherd (husband of Hattie Mason Shepherd) were first cousins; their fathers, Albert Hillhouse Shepherd and Edward Thomson Shepherd, respectively, were brothers—and sons of Andrew Shepherd and his wife, Mary Hillhouse. For detailed genealogical data devoted to the Shepherds, see

Starke and the girls of the home appeared in local newspapers during the era. Activities that captured the attention of reporters included a Sunday afternoon drive around the city (and even to Chattahoochee County) in automobiles, a certain appearance at the Country Club of Columbus at the invitation of the Rotarians, and a Saturday afternoon party at the home of Mrs. G. J. Peacock.[61] The extent to which Miss Starke remained committed to her work with the orphans is suggested in this small news item that appeared in 1918: "Miss Sallie Stark [sic] left Monday for Atlanta, for a visit to her sister-in-law, Mrs. Irene Mason Stark [sic]. Miss Stark [sic] is the popular matron of the Girls' Orphan Home, and this is her first vacation in eighteen years."[62]

In truth, given the condition of her parents' estate and her own status as a single woman forced to earn her own living, the vacation hiatus of eighteen years probably had as much to do with her ailing financial situation as her commitment to the orphans. In light of the information in the notice below, which appeared in the "Society" column of March 6, 1919, it is clear that Sallie Starke began her tenure at the orphans' home at the very turn of the new century—and, with census data considered, it is even more certain that she began her work with the orphans during the last six months of the year 1900:

> *Miss Sallie Starke left Tuesday for Atlanta where she will make her future home with her nephew, Mr. John Starke. For eighteen consecutive years Miss Starke has served most efficiently as matron of the Girls' Orphans [H]ome of this city.... During her young ladyhood Miss Starke, who is a member of one of Columbus' oldest and most aristocratic families, was prominently identified with the social life of this city and recognized as a beauty and belle."*[63]

With no parents, no husband, no siblings, no children, no home, and little if any money—in short, an orphan in her own right, Miss Starke's decision to leave Columbus for Atlanta in 1919 was a most practical one for a genteel maiden lady in her circumstances. There, in Fulton County, she would live in the house with her widowed sister-in-law, Irene Mason Starke, and with her nephew (her closest blood relative), John Thomas Starke.

While fully retired and living in Atlanta, Miss Starke managed to have occasional visits with friends in Columbus. Such an extended stay received mention in a newspaper entry published in 1920: "Miss Sallie Stark [sic], who has been spending the summer with Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Shepherd, in

---

Jacqueline Mancino's compilations (electronic and paper) devoted to the Hillhouse and Shepherd families. (See also Note 28).

[61] "Orphans Given An Auto Spin," *Columbus Enquirer-Sun*, September 7, 1907, 5, accessed July 23, 2016, http://infoweb.newsbank.com; the event was hosted by the Columbus Automobile Club, which entertained "[s]eventeen little girls of the orphan home and Miss Sallie Starke, the matron." "Orphan's [sic] Were Rotary Guests," *Columbus Ledger,* December 22, 1918, 20. "Orphans Entertained," *Columbus Enquirer-Sun*, November 10, 1912, 4, accessed July 23, 2016, http://infoweb.newsbank.com.

[62] "Society," *Columbus Ledger*, May, 8, 1918, 3.

[63] "Former Matron of Girls' Orphans Home, Miss Sallie Starke, Leaves for Atlanta to Make Her Future Home," *Columbus Ledger*, March 6, 1919, 2, accessed July 23, 2016. The 1900 census of Muscogee County, taken in June of that year, shows Susie Johnson, a 40-year-old widow and Sallie Starke's predecessor, as "head" of the "Female Orphan Asylum."

Wynnton, has returned to her home in Atlanta."[64] Another visit with the Shepherds was mentioned in the following year: "Miss Sallie Starke, of Atlanta, who has been spending some time in Columbus as the guest of Mrs. Andrew Shepherd, in Wynnton, has returned home. Miss Starke has many friends in Columbus, to whom her visits are always a source of much happiness."[65] In the fall of 1922, out of devotion to members of the Shepherd family, she returned to Columbus for the funeral of Lucy Banks Shepherd (Mrs. Andrew), according to a notice that appeared in the *Columbus Ledger*: "Miss Sallie Stark [sic], of Atlanta, arrived in the city Tuesday, coming for the funeral of her dear friend, Mrs. Andrew Shepherd, whose sad demise occurred recently, after a prolonged illness at the city hospital."[66]

With her departure from Columbus in 1919, Miss Starke left behind not a single member of her Starke family in Muscogee County. Her last trip to Columbus—albeit in death—came early in December 1933, when her body was sent by train from Atlanta for burial next to her parents at Linwood Cemetery. Her obituary, part of which is shown below, was published in the *Columbus Enquirer* and carried references to her parents and to her nephew:

DEATH CLAIMS MISS STARKE

Miss Sallie Starke, Formerly of Columbus, Dies in Atlanta

Miss Sallie Starke, 76, a native of Columbus and a member of one of the pioneer families of Georgia, died at the residence of her nephew, John Starke, in Atlanta, Thursday evening at 5 o'clock. Miss Starke left Columbus about fifteen years ago to make her home in Atlanta. The nephew with whom she made her home is the only close relative surviving, although there are several distant relatives in Columbus. Having visited here on various occasions since she left to reside in Atlanta, Miss Starke had many friends in this city. She was the daughter of the late John and Mary Greer [sic] Starke, pioneer residents of Columbus who were prominent in the social and business life of the community.[67]

In addition to the incorrect spelling of her mother's maiden name, which should have been *Grier,* the obituary erroneously indicates that Miss Starke had been born in Columbus; she was a small child, rather, when she moved from southwest Georgia to Columbus in 1865 with her parents. The reference to "distant relatives in Columbus" was almost certainly a reference to members of the Mason and Shepherd families, to whom she was related only by marriage—through her sister-in-law. Sallie Starke, her brother, their parents, and Irene Mason Starke (her brother's wife) lie together in the Starke lot at Linwood Cemetery.

---

[64] "Society," *Columbus Daily Enquirer*, September 17, 1920, 3.
[65] "Personals," *Columbus Ledger*, September 4, 1921, 16.
[66] *Columbus Ledger*, November 2, 1922, 3. Andrew Shepherd (husband of Lucy Banks) and Albert Shepherd (husband of Hattie Mason) were brothers.
[67] "Death Claims Miss Starke," *Columbus Enquirer*, December 8, 1933, 2. Even though the obituary refers to her as "a native of Columbus," Sallie Starke did not come to Wynnton from south Georgia until 1865 (the year mentioned in her father's obituary and her brother's obituary); she turned eight years old in the fall of that year.

John Thomas Starke, The Last of the Starkes

John Thomas Starke, the only grandchild of Mary E. Grier and John M. Starke, was born in Columbus in 1887 and died (while on a visit to Macon) in 1954—a few months before his 67th birthday. Only two years old when his father, John T. Starke, died in Columbus, John Thomas Starke spent most of his adult life in Atlanta.

John Thomas Starke, son of Irene Mason and John T. Starke, was a student at Georgia Tech when this photograph was published in the 1910-1911 edition of the school's yearbook. The only grandchild of Mary Grier and John M. Starke, he had no children of his own, and his death marked the demise of the Starke family that once flourished on what is now Starke Avenue.

Courtesy of Archives, Library, and Information Center, Archives and Records Management Department, Georgia Institute of Technology

Having attended schools in Columbus and Madison, Georgia in the fall of 1906, he enrolled as a "sub" (or apprentice) at the Georgia Institute of Technology.[68] In the following summer, shortly before leaving for Atlanta to begin his freshman year at "Tech," young John Starke was mentioned in the Columbus newspaper:

> *A very pleasant boating party at Wildwood was given on Tuesday evening by Miss Annie Latimer Watson... The party consisted of Miss Emma Dora Willingham, Miss Roberta Slade, Miss Marie Wood, Miss Sarah Howard, Miss Bessie Brown, Miss Annie Lou Grimes, Miss Mary Slade, Mr. John Starke, Mr. Geo. Swift, Mr. George Kyle, Mr. Edwin Booth, Mr. Cecil Grimes, Mr. Richard Bruce, Mr. Kinsel Berry, Mr. Patten Watson, Mr. Will Pease, Mr. Rhodes Slade.*[69]

A few months later, in the *Columbus Enquirer-Sun*, his name appeared in print again: "Mr. John Starke is in Atlanta where he will be a student at the Technological School this year."[70] He was mentioned by the Columbus press in October 1910, when he was recognized for his work as associate editor on the staff of Georgia Tech's student magazine, *The Yellow Jacket*.[71] In June 1911, he received a bachelor's degree in textile engineering from Georgia Tech.[72] For the school's yearbook, *The Blue Print*, of 1910-1911, John Starke, the historian of the senior class, wrote the introductory remarks that form the preface to the publication. His essay, "History of the Senior Class 1911," begins somewhat ominously: "Glancing

---

[68] (See Note 43).
[69] "Kodak: Flash Lights on Social Scenes and Topics," *Columbus Enquirer-Sun*, June 30, 1907, 6, accessed July 23, 2016, http://infoweb.newsbank.com.
[70] "Kodak: Flash Lights on Social Scenes and Topics," *Columbus Enquirer-Sun*, September 29, 1907, 4, accessed July 23, 2016, http://infoweb.newsbank.com.
[71] "Society: Who's Who at Tech," *Columbus Ledger*, October 30, 1910, 6.
[72] "Tech Will Graduate 61 in Class of 1911," *Atlanta Georgian and News*, June 3, 1911, 17.

down the long, dark corridors of time, I see before me a great number of strange and important events."[73] His senior class photograph was published in the Georgia Tech yearbook with his full name, *John Thomas Starke*, his age (23), and his nickname—"Johnnie."[74]

At the time of the 1920 Fulton County census, John Starke (age 33) resided in southwest Atlanta (near Morehouse College) with mother, Irene (age 50); maiden aunt, Sallie Starke (who had moved to Atlanta from Columbus only the year before and was 62 years old at the time of the 1920 census); and Louise Drake Cantey (age 35), his mother's niece and widow of John Cantey.[75] Also in the household were Louise Cantey's children, Catherine (age 13) and James (age 11).[76] In the 1921 city directory of Atlanta, Irene Starke (teacher at the Washington Seminary), John Starke (travelling salesman for the Scandinavian Belting Company), and Sallie Starke are listed as residents of 23 West Sixteenth Street. Louise Cantey (also identified in the city directory as a teacher at the Washington Seminary) is listed at the same West Sixteenth Street address.[77]

Louise Drake Cantey, seen here in a photograph taken ca. 1960, was the daughter of Emma Reese Mason and John William Walton Drake. At the time of the 1920 Fulton County census, she was living, along with her two children—Catherine and James Cantey—in the Atlanta home of Irene Mason Starke, her mother's sister; also in the household at the time were John Thomas Starke (son of Irene Mason Starke) and Sallie Starke (the unmarried sister-in-law of Mrs. Starke). By all accounts the family member of her generation to whom John Thomas Starke was the closest over the course of their lives, Mrs. Cantey was instructed by the terms of John Starke's will to work "amicably" in placing his personal effects. The informant on John Starke's death certificate in 1954, Mrs. Cantey was buried next to him in Atlanta's Westview Cemetery at the time of her own death in 1969.

Courtesy of the author

---

[73] *The Blue Print*, Vol. IV, 1910-1911, (Atlanta: Georgia Institute of Technology), 22. Earlier that year, in the context of another allusion to *time*, this "lost and found" notice appeared in *The Yellow Jacket*: "LOST – Between the top and bottom of the Rathskeller steps on Saturday Night, Jno. Starke's gold watch. Finder please return and receive liberal reward." Lost and Found Notice, *The Yellow Jacket*, March 1911, 30.

[74] *The Blue Print*, Vol. IV, 1910-1911, 13; the reference in the biographical information that accompanies his photograph to Madison, Georgia, is, doubtless, a reference to Irene Mason Starke's eldest sister, Martha ("Mattie") Mason Williams, who lived with her husband and children in Madison (Morgan County), Georgia.

[75] "Mr. John Cantey Dies at His Home at Ft. Mitchell," *Columbus Enquirer-Sun*, December 5, 1918, 6, accessed July 23, 2016, http://infoweb.newsbank.com. The obituary states that he was born at Ft. Mitchell in 1860, "his parents being the late General James Cantey and Martha Benton." John Cantey was married to Louise Drake on January 30, 1906 "at the home of her mother, Mrs. Emma Mason Drake, in Wynnton" (*Columbus Enquirer-Sun*, January 31, 1906, 5, accessed July 23, 2016, http://infoweb.newsbank.com).

[76] U.S. Federal Census, 1920, Georgia, Fulton County, Atlanta Ward 7, 8A.

[77] *Atlanta City Directory, 1921*. Atlanta: Atlanta City Directory Company, 1921, 331 and 1053. Although children are not named in city directories, it is likely that Catherine and James Cantey, daughter and son of Louise Drake Cantey, were still with their mother and the Starkes in 1921.

By the time of the 1930 Fulton County census, the Starkes had moved just north of Peachtree Battle Avenue (and east of Peachtree Road) and were living at 11 Roanoke Avenue. Irene Mason Starke had died in 1928; two year later, at the time of the census, her son, John Thomas Starke, and his aunt, Sallie Starke, as well as three boarders, lived in the Roanoke Avenue house together.[78] The same address, 11 Roanoke Avenue, Atlanta, was mentioned years later in John Thomas Starke's obituary, published in the September 23, 1954, edition of the *Atlanta Constitution*. Like his mother, he died suddenly.[79] According to his obituary, he worked as a salesman for the Columbus Iron Works and was in Macon on business at the time of his death. A member of Atlanta's Covenant Presbyterian Church, John Thomas Starke was buried at Westview Cemetery in Atlanta—not brought back to Columbus to join his parents, his aunt, and his grandparents in the Starke lot at Linwood. Survivors named in the death notice included only cousins—all three of them from the Mason family: Louise Drake Cantey, Mason Williams, and W.J. Leppert.[80]

His obituaries in the two Columbus newspapers in business at that time—*The Columbus Enquirer* (morning) and *The Columbus Ledger* (afternoon)—included direct references to his family's association with Starke Avenue. An excerpt of *The Columbus Ledger*'s account follows:

---

[78] U.S. Federal Census, 1930, Georgia, Fulton County, Buckhead District, 47B; the Canteys were still in Atlanta at the time of the 1830 census, although they were no longer living with the Starkes.

[79] Death certificate for John Thomas Starke (Georgia Department of Public Health, Fulton County, September 22, 1954) indicates that he died at Macon's Georgian Hotel and that his death was due to heart disease.

[80] "John T. Starke" (obituary), *Atlanta Constitution*, September 23, 1954, 29. Survivors named in the obituary, all cousins from the Mason family: Mrs. Louise Cantey, Mason Williams, George Leppert. The bulk of his estate (including the house on Roanoke Avenue) was left to Leona Herrin Bradford Craighead, with whom he did not share family ties. She and her husband, Henry Craighead, along with her son by a previous marriage, James Herrin Bradford, became boarders in John Starke's home in the mid-1940s. In a telephone conversation with the author in 2012, James Bradford, who was in his early 80s at the time and living in Atlanta, indicated that he, his mother (Leona Herring Bradford Craighead), and his stepfather (Henry Craighead) moved into John Starke's Roanoke Avenue home (behind present-day Peachtree Battle Shopping Center) not long after the end of World War II. It is likely that John Starke met the Craigheads at Covenant Presbyterian Church, located on Peachtree Road and not far from Roanoke Avenue. According to Mr. Bradford, John Starke maintained one bedroom (although he travelled frequently with his work), while the Craigheads occupied a second bedroom, and young "Jimmy" Bradford the third. When Henry Craighead died in 1946, John Starke acted as a pallbearer at the funeral, which was held at Atlanta's Spring Hill Funeral Home (Funeral notices, Craighead; *Atlanta Constitution*, Feb. 8, 1946, 14). Henry Craighead's widow, Leona, and her son, Jimmy Bradford, continued to live at John Starke's house; Leona Craighead inherited John Starke's house at his death in 1954. At Mrs. Craighead's death in 1959, her son became owner of the property on Roanoke Avenue. In the 2012 telephone conversation with James Bradford, he stated definitively that his mother was not in possession of John Starke's family photographs or any other archival materials that might have belonged to Irene Mason Starke (his mother) or Sarah ("Sallie") Starke (his aunt). Louise Cantey was left $5,000.00 in John Starke's will. According to instructions in the will, Mrs. Cantey was asked to be involved in the disposal of John Starke's clothes: "After Jimmy Bradford chooses what he wants of wearing apparel, I wish the remainder of same disposed of by Mrs. Leona Craighead and Mrs. Louise Cantey, amicably, I trust"; will of John Thomas Starke, which was made November 29, 1948 and proven/recorded November 1, 1954, Fulton County, Georgia.

J.T. Starke Dies in Macon; Funeral in Atlanta Friday

John Thomas Starke, a member of one of Columbus' pioneer families and a former salesman for Columbus Iron Works, died yesterday in a Macon Hotel. Starke, 66, was born in Columbus, a son of the late John and Irene Mason Starke. The family lived on a large estate in the vicinity of present Starke Avenue, which is named for his family. Starke was educated in the Columbus public schools and was graduated from Georgia Tech in 1911. He served in World War I.[81]

With no children left behind, his death marked the official end of the Mary E. Grier and John M. Starke line of descent.

One of many disappointing twists of fate in the story of the Starkes is the fact that, despite the "historian" tendencies in the personalities of Irene Mason Starke and her son, there is no trace—or none that I can find—of any family photographs or papers that would have almost certainly been in their possession. Since John Thomas Starke (1887-1954) was the only Starke offspring, everything—ephemeral and otherwise—in the possession of his grandparents, his parents, and his maiden aunt (Sarah H. Starke—"Sallie") would have come to him, it seems. Regretfully, despite much searching, nothing of the sort has come to light.[82] On a final note of irony that is due, more than likely, to a clerical error made years ago in city government offices, *Starke Avenue* is spelled incorrectly (*Stark*—without the "e") on street signs in Wynnton even as of this writing.

---

[81] "J.T. Starke Dies In Macon; Funeral In Atlanta Friday," *Columbus Ledger*, September 23, 1954, 2. Another obituary appeared on the *Columbus Enquirer*'s front page, September 23, 1954 which claimed that Starke's "parents lived on a large estate in the vicinity of present Starke Avenue." Since it was the estate of his grandparents (not his parents), the reference to his parents ("who lived on a large estate") was removed for the afternoon edition of the paper (*Columbus Ledger*) and substituted with "the family."

[82] All available information strongly suggests that Louise Drake Cantey was the contemporary who most likely inherited the personal effects—such as family photographs—left behind by John Thomas Starke, his widowed mother, and his maiden aunt. Mrs. Cantey, who was 88 years old at the time of her death on April 21, 1969, was buried next to John Starke in Atlanta's Westview Cemetery. One of her death notices was published in the *Atlanta Journal Constitution*, April 23, 1969, 32.

The Henry L. Benning Civil War Correspondence: Another Gem in the Columbus State University Archives

By Phil Linn

Brigadier General Henry L. Benning
Courtesy of the National Infantry Museum

Unlike some of his fire-eating colleagues who led the South into the Civil War, Henry L. Benning put his money—and his life—where his mouth was. A successful lawyer from Columbus, Georgia, who later won election as associate justice of the Georgia Supreme Court in the decade before the war, Benning became an outspoken advocate for states' rights and one of the leaders of Georgia's secessionist movement. Soon after the start of the war, Benning raised the Seventeenth Regiment of Georgia Volunteers and spent most of the war in General James Longstreet's First Corps of General Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia, participating in all of that army's major campaigns except the Battle of Chancellorsville. He also traveled with the portion of Longstreet's Corps sent to reinforce Braxton Bragg's Army of the Tennessee in the Battle of Chickamauga. Much of Benning's Civil War correspondence, both original letters and published copies, is contained in five file folders in Box 4 of the Benning/Jones Collection (Folders 14-18) in the Columbus State University Archives at the Simon Schwob Memorial Library.[1] The materials offer a fascinating insight into Benning's storied military career on the front lines of some of the most intense fighting of the Civil War as well as his overall experiences as part of the leadership in the Army of Northern Virginia.[2]

Benning's Confederate service officially began with his appointment to the rank of colonel in the Georgia militia on August 17, 1861, a copy of which, signed by Governor Joseph E. Brown, is included in the collection. After the First Battle of Manassas in July 1861, the creation of militia units at the state level accelerated. The Seventeenth Regiment of Georgia Volunteers which Benning headed was formed with ten companies from Muscogee and five other counties. As its commander, Benning supervised its equipping (initially with "smoothbore muskets") and movement from Georgia to northern Virginia.[3] Along with the First (later assigned to General Richard Anderson's Brigade), Second, Fifteenth, and Twentieth Regiments of Georgia Volunteers, the Seventeenth became part of Brigadier General Robert Toombs Brigade of Major General David Jones' Division, Army of the Potomac, Confederate States Army.[4]

---

[1] Since Benning practiced law with Seaborn Jones, a well-known lawyer, entrepreneur, and congressmen as well as one of the founders of the city of Columbus (and also Benning's father-in-law), the collection contains their combined correspondence—most of which consists of legal and financial documents from their pre-war legal practice.

[2] While the collection contains original, handwritten drafts of most of the battle reports submitted by Benning and drafts of many pieces of Benning's military correspondence, the collection is far from complete. As he explained in a letter after the war, the trunk containing his official military correspondence was lost in the chaos of the retreat from Petersburg in April 1865. What remains is nonetheless informative as an insight into Benning's military service. Researchers will find it helpful to use as companion resources J. David Dameron's *General Henry Lewis Benning, This Was a Man: A Biography of Georgia's Supreme Court Justice and Confederate General* (Athens: Iberian Publishing Company, 2000) and, by the same author, *Benning's Brigade, Volume 2: A History and Roster of the Second, Seventeenth, and Twentieth Georgia Volunteer Infantry Regiments* (Westminster: Heritage Books, 2011), both of which are available in the Columbus State University Archives. These sources provide much of the context and perspective lacking in the correspondence itself.

[3] Letter to E.P. Alexander, undated, Benning/Jones Collection, Box 4, Folder 18, 4, Columbus State University Archives.

[4] J. David Dameron, *General Henry Lewis Benning, This Was a Man: A Biography of Georgia's Supreme Court Justice and Confederate General* (Athens: Iberian Publishing Company, 2000), 111.

Benning and the Seventeenth Regiment spent the fall and winter months of 1861-1862 establishing camps, adjusting to the rigors of military life, drilling, and preparing for the upcoming spring campaign. This proved to be more trying than one might assume. David Dameron, in his biography of Benning, points out that the conditions of that first winter significantly reduced the ranks of Toombs' Brigade, which boasted an initial strength of around 4,000 soldiers; "by the close of 1861, the ranks of the brigade were thinned by the loss of 595 men, due to illness, desertions, and disabilities." Between 1861 and 1865, total losses within the brigade due to disease and illness alone amounted to 1,002, with pneumonia and typhoid being the leading causes, followed by smallpox and measles. Overall losses from all causes were staggering; the brigade had mustered with close to 4,300 men in August 1861; by April 9, 1865, a mere 812 soldiers remained on the field.[5]

During the spring and summer of 1862, Benning spent more time engaged in political battles than military ones. He corresponded extensively with the Confederate Secretary of War, G.W. Randolph, over the issue of how promotions were to be handled for company grade officers in Benning's regiment. At issue was the tradition of electing officers in militia units like Benning's Seventeenth Regiment, which had been in force since the unit's creation. The Confederate government asserted that regimental officers should be officially promoted and assigned by the government. As an ardent states' rights advocate, Benning steadfastly supported the traditional electoral procedures. First Lieutenant Henry McCauley served as second in command of Company F in the Seventeenth Regiment, a unit that had been mustered out of Columbus, and thus he was well known to Colonel Benning. Benning judged McCauley, a tombstone merchant in his pre-war days, unqualified to take command of the company after the resignation of the elected commander. In fact, the men in the company elected another officer to be the company commander. McCauley refused to accept the decision and protested directly to Randolph. Benning had him arrested and jailed for insubordination. In the ensuing exchange of letters, Randolph provided McCauley with an official promotion to captain, and directed Benning to reinstate McCauley as the company commander. In the end, McCauley resigned in frustration at Benning's refusal to give him an official hearing and he returned to Columbus to resume his pre-war occupation. Randolph's order reinstating McCauley could not be executed since he was already gone by the time it was received.[6] Despite at one point writing an impassioned, twenty-two page argument of his point, Benning in the end discreetly let the matter die.[7]

---

[5] Dameron, *Benning,* 114-117.

[6] Ibid., 122-123.

[7] The correspondence relating to the McCauley affair is dated May 15, 1862 through July 25, 1862, in Folder 15 of the Benning/Jones Collection. Howell Cobb, Benning's college classmate and lifelong friend, advised him that "courtesy and prudence" would win the day with Randolph, advice that Benning evidently followed (Letter from Howell Cobb to Benning, July 16, 1862, Benning/Jones Collection, Folder 15).

As this disagreement was playing out, the war began to assume a new intensity and Benning soon found himself in the center of some of the fiercest action. Union Major General George B. McClellan had begun his Peninsula Campaign, and Toombs' Brigade, as part of Jones' division, participated in the Confederate attempt to halt McClellan's advance on Richmond. When the Confederate commander, Joseph E. Johnston, was wounded midway in the campaign, authorities appointed Robert E. Lee to replace him. An army reorganization followed, with Toombs' Brigade and Jones' Division becoming part of Major General John Magruder's Corps in the renamed Confederate Army of Northern Virginia. At the Battle of Seven Pines, taking place on June 1, 1862, Toombs' Brigade arrived too late to participate in the fighting, but later in the month, at Garnett's Farm on June 27, the brigade, including Benning's regiment, received its baptism of fire. Although Benning's original brief battle report of the engagement is not in the collection, it is included as reproduced in the *War of the Rebellion* series. A few days later, (June 30 - July 1) Toombs' Brigade and Jones' Division were part of Lee's unsuccessful and costly attempt to crush McClellan's army at the Battle of Malvern Hill.

Sketch by Alfred Waud depicting the Battle of Malvern Hill
Courtesy of the Library of Congress

Benning, as senior regimental commander in the brigade, was appointed its interim commander after Longstreet had a falling out with Toombs in the aftermath of McClellan's retreat from the Peninsula.[8] Soon after, Longstreet's First Corps shifted north to link up with Jackson, crossing the Rapidan River on August 18 and the Rappahannock River on August 26. On August 28, following

[8] Dameron, *Benning's Brigade*, 38. On the move to link up with Jackson's Corps, General Toombs ran afoul of General Longstreet and started the series of events that would lead to Benning being given the command of Toombs' Brigade. Toombs was directed by Longstreet to post a guard at Racoon Ford on the Rapidan River to prevent potential Union forays into Confederate territory. Toombs contemptuously felt that the guard was unnecessary and proceeded to dine out with one of his former congressional colleagues who lived nearby. Returning later in the evening to find that some of his regiments had been dispatched to guard the ford despite his orders to the contrary, he angrily remanded the order and withdrew the force. Later that same night, a Union cavalry force slipped across at the ford, raided General J.E.B. Stuart's headquarters, and narrowly missed capturing the Confederate cavalry leader himself. Taking his personal belongings, including his famed plumed hat, the Union force returned unscathed, much to the embarrassment of Stuart. Longstreet was furious and had Toombs arrested, appointing Benning interim commander.

Jackson's Corps through Thoroughfare Gap on the way to Manassas Junction, a Union force suddenly appeared on either side of the Gap determined to cut Longstreet's Corps off from Jackson's Corps. Toombs' Brigade, led by Benning, received orders to clear the heights on the right side of the Gap, which it did by beating the Union force in a race to the top of the ridge. General Anderson's Brigade, including the First Regiment of Georgia Volunteers, (which Benning's son Seaborn fought with) attacked up the other side of the Gap. By dark, the Union attempt to block the Gap had been repulsed, and the remainder of Longstreet's Corps moved through the Gap unmolested.

On August 29, Jackson's Corps had been engaged by General John Pope's Army of Virginia. Thinking that the Confederates were retreating westward, Pope determined to cut them off. However, when Longstreet's Corps appeared on his flank the next day, Pope had little choice but to turn and fight what became known as the Second Battle of Manassas. With Toombs still under arrest, Benning remained in command of the brigade, and played a decisive role in Longstreet's fight on the Confederate left wing. The brigade took significant casualties, reported at 37 killed and another 294 wounded.[9]

The fall of 1862 proved to be a very busy time for Benning and the Army of Northern Virginia. As a newly minted (although not officially promoted) brigade commander, Benning found time to catch up on his official correspondence. He produced reports of Second Manassas and the Battle of Sharpsburg (Antietam) during this period, handwritten drafts of both which are included in the collection. At Sharpsburg, General Toombs was given command of a provisional division, which included Benning's Brigade. With the Fifteenth and Seventeenth Regiments defending Lee's supply trains, Benning and his two remaining regiments, the Second and the Twentieth, were assigned to defend the lower bridge across Antietam Creek, known forever after as "Burnside's Bridge." On September 17, after a morning assault on the Confederate left had been repulsed, an attack on the right commenced. Benning's two regiments of around 350 officers and men faced the entire Union IX Corps of General Ambrose Burnside—around 13,000 strong. With the Union soldiers attempting to cross the narrow lower bridge, Benning's two regiments held out against five successive assaults, not yielding until they began to run out of ammunition. Ordering a withdrawal, Benning met the Fifteenth and Seventeenth regiments at the top of the hill, hastening to his rescue. Ultimately, A.P. Hill's Division relieved Toombs' Division, and received the lion's share of credit for saving the day.[10] However, the fight by Toombs' men was not over. Toombs had observed some of Burnside's units threatening the town of Sharpsburg itself, and ordered his division to halt the envelopment of the town. In a letter to E.P. Alexander after the war, Benning remarked: "...A.P. Hill's troops came up before night, but none of them had much part in the fight; none

---

[9] Dameron, *Benning's Brigade*, 41-45; Benning's handwritten draft battle report dated October 8, 1862, is in Folder #16, Benning/Jones Collection.

[10] Dameron, *Benning,* 143; for example, in Stephen Sear's *Landscape Turned Red* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1983), 285-6, the author praises A.P. Hill for his timely arrival on the battlefield, but in fairness, credited the Federal's delay in reorganizing after crossing Antietam Creek as a major factor in the Confederate forces holding the town of Sharpsburg.

had any part in first breaking the line [of advancing Union forces on Sharpsburg]. I give the above detail for the benefit of General Toombs as I have understood the credit of retaking Sharpsburg was & perhaps is claimed for A.P. Hill. Toombs is the man, however..."[11] It was at Sharpsburg that Benning's son, Seaborn Benning, was wounded for the first time, fighting with the First Regiment in Anderson's Brigade. Toombs himself received a wound in the hand later in the evening. After a convalescence in Georgia, Toombs became frustrated in his quest for promotion to Major General and resigned, thus giving Benning his opportunity for permanent brigade command.[12]

"Burnside's Bridge" at Antietam, scene of one of Benning's most celebrated wartime accomplishments
Courtesy of the author

Benning would face Burnside again in December 1862 at Fredericksburg. By this time, Burnside had replaced McClellan as commander of the Army of the Potomac and had moved his army to try to outflank Lee at Fredericksburg. High water on the Rappahannock River and lack of pontoon bridging delayed his advance southward, allowing Lee's army plenty of time to dig in to contest the crossing. The result was a decisive victory for the Confederate forces on December 13. Toombs' Brigade, led by

[11] Letter to E.P. Alexander, Folder #18; 17, 18, Benning/Jones Collection.
[12] Dameron, *Benning,* 145.

Benning, occupied the center of the rebel position in the second line of defense on the heights overlooking the town. Aside from some casualties from stray artillery fire, the brigade escaped relatively unscathed.[13]

During the winter hiatus in the fighting which followed, Benning received promotion to Brigadier General (the actual promotion order was dated April 23, 1863, but with an effective date of rank of January 17).[14] He took the field again in February of 1863 as part of Longstreet's move to the Virginia Tidewater region to attempt to retake the city of Suffolk. Pausing in Richmond for close to a month awaiting favorable weather, the Corps recommenced its move on March 29, and arrived in the vicinity of Suffolk in mid-April. Benning communicated extensively with Longstreet and his staff during this Tidewater Campaign, requisitioning supplies from a largely Unionist populace along the border of North Carolina. Benning's men evidently treated Unionist sympathizers, referred to as "Buffaloes" in the correspondence, civilly as long as they were cooperative.[15] Benning's Brigade was assigned the task of escorting and protecting the Corps supply trains, an undertaking of special concern to Longstreet and which elicited several directives personally written and signed by Longstreet himself. On May 3, Longstreet and his Corps were directed to rejoin Lee's army, but missed taking part in the Battle of Chancellorsville.

Benning took part in some of the fiercest fighting at the Battle of Gettysburg two months later, however. Benning's Brigade, as part of John B. Hood's Division, occupied the far right of the rebel line on the second day of the battle, July 2, 1863. Although in the second echelon of the attack against the Union position on Cemetery Ridge, Benning's Brigade decisively engaged Union forces around Houck's Ridge and Devil's Den. In the heavy fighting near Houck's Ridge, two regiments of Benning's troops reinforced Brigadier General Jerome Robertson's Texas Brigade, which had come under heavy artillery and sharpshooter fire from Little Round Top, while his other two regiments fought a ferocious battle in amongst the boulder-strewn vicinity of Devil's Den, assisting the left-most regiment of Alabamians from Brigadier General Evander Law's brigade. The attack on Houck's Ridge resulted in the capture of three Union artillery pieces and at least a hundred prisoners—the combined efforts of both Robertson's and Benning's Brigade, although the Texan's received the credit.[16] Benning's losses were heavy on July 2—reportedly around 400. On July 3, after reinforcing their positions overnight, the brigade spent much of the day standing their ground, while the main attack focused on the center of the Union position (Pickett's Charge). However, late in the afternoon, a series of confusing messages from General Lafayette McLaws, on Benning's left, and General Law, on Benning's right, led him to send one regiment (the Fifteenth) to a forward position now exposed on both flanks as the Confederate forces began to

---

[13] Benning's draft account of the Battle of Fredericksburg, December 20, 1862, Folder #16, Benning/Jones Collection.
[14] Promotion Order from Confederate Secretary of War James Seddon, April 23, 1863, Folder #17, Ibid.
[15] Letter from G.M. Sorrell (Longstreet's Adjutant) to Benning, April 25, 1863, Folder #17, Ibid.
[16] Dameron, *Benning's Brigade,* 79.

withdraw. Receiving a second order from General Law clarifying the first, Benning realized that his entire brigade was in danger of being outflanked, and the Fifteenth Regiment was already in that situation. Benning successfully extracted both, but the Fifteenth Regiment suffered heavy casualties in withdrawing under pressure. The intense fighting over two days had resulted in 509 casualties within the brigade.[17]

Devil's Den at Gettysburg, where two regiments of Benning's command engaged Union forces

Courtesy of the author

ARMY OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA
LONGSTREET'S CORPS HOOD'S DIVISION
BENNING'S BRIGADE
2D. 15TH. 17TH. 20TH. GEORGIA INFANTRY
JULY 2 FORMED IN LINE ABOUT 4 P. M. IN REAR OF LAW'S AND ROBERTSON'S BRIGADES AND MOVING FORWARD IN SUPPORT TOOK ACTIVE PART IN THE CONFLICT WHICH RESULTED IN THE CAPTURE OF THE DEVIL'S DEN TOGETHER WITH A NUMBER OF PRISONERS AND 3 GUNS OF SMITH'S 4TH NEW YORK BATTERY

Historic marker on the Gettysburg battlefield indicating the position of Benning's men

Courtesy of the author

In his post-war letter to E.P. Alexander, Benning also gave an interesting second-hand account of another skirmish fought on July 3. Major General Judson Kilpatrick (nicknamed "Kill-Cavalry"),

[17] Benning's draft after-action report of Gettysburg, Aug 3, 1863, Folder #17; 12, Benning/Jones Collection.

commander of a division of Union cavalry, directed one of his brigades, commanded by rising star Brigadier General Elon Farnsworth, to make an ill-fated attack on the right flank of the Confederate position after Pickett's Charge had been stopped. The charge took place over uneven terrain, against entrenched infantrymen. As the cavalrymen broke through a line of skirmishers in the rebel rear, they found themselves suddenly surrounded by an ever-increasing force of determined Texans, who were itching to avenge their own repulse at Little Round Top the day before. According to most historical accounts of the battle, Farnsworth's brigade was decimated, and Farnsworth himself killed in a suicidal attack on a strong Confederate position, riddled with five rebel bullets.[18] Benning related Farnsworth's fate differently, recording that he had heard from several eyewitnesses that after the battle, as the Confederate infantrymen policed up the battlefield, they approached "...a fallen horse with the rider by his side but not dead. They ordered him to surrender. He replied wait a little or something to that effect and put his hand to his pistol, drew it & blew his brains out. This was Gen Farnsworth..."[19]

The Army of Northern Virginia had scarcely retreated back to Virginia when Lee decided to send Longstreet's Corps west to reinforce Braxton Bragg's Army of Tennessee. Since most of eastern Tennessee and Kentucky already lay under Union control, the troops had to take a circuitous rail route to their objective crossing through North Carolina down to Atlanta, then north to Ringgold, Georgia, where they detrained and immediately marched into combat at Chickamauga. While enroute, Benning and his brigade became embroiled in a minor controversy in Raleigh, North Carolina, which is addressed by documents in the Benning/Jones Collection. Temporarily halting in Raleigh, Benning allowed some of his soldiers to explore the town. Whether his men had heard rumors while underway or once they arrived, it became known to them that one of the newspapers in town, the *North Carolina Standard*, owned by pro-Unionist editor William Holden, had been consistently publishing articles favoring the Northern cause. Soldiers connected with Benning's Brigade, as well as other units, raided the *Standard's* offices, damaging the press and spreading typesetter's letters in the street. The brigade resumed its journey by 11:00 pm, and Benning, by his own account unaware of its activities at the time, took no action. Holden immediately wrote an angry letter to the *Milton Chronicle* (North Carolina), filled with unsubstantiated rumors and innuendo, blaming Benning and his troops for the incident.[20] North Carolina governor Zebulon B. Vance, himself personally involved in trying to quell the riot, also fed the controversy by making some unfortunate assumptions, and then complaining to the Confederate Secretary of War, James Seddon. In the end, Benning was exonerated, Governor Vance apologized, and the affair unceremoniously ended.

Benning once again found himself in a major battle at Chickamauga between September 18 and 20, 1863. By all accounts, the heavily wooded terrain allowed units easily to become separated, and the battle degenerated into ferocious individual and small unit fights. Benning apparently temporarily lost his

---

[18] For example, see Shelby Foote, *The Civil War, A Narrative*, Vol 2, (New York: Random House, 1963); 574.
[19] Letter to E.P. Alexander, undated, Folder #18; 20, Benning/Jones Collection.
[20] Newspaper clipping, *Milton Chronicle*, September 10, 1863, Folder #22, Ibid.

composure under fire during one of these firefights. On the third day of the battle, and the second day of heavy combat, having had his horse shot from beneath him, Benning mounted an unsaddled artillery horse and continued on. However, the fighting became so intense that Benning lost sight of his own men. As reported later by General Longstreet in his postwar memoirs, Benning rode up on his artillery mount and excitedly reported, "Hood killed, my horse killed, my brigade torn to pieces, and I haven't a man left." Longstreet allegedly replied, calmly telling Benning: "General, look about you. You are not so badly hurt. I know you will find at least one man, and with him on his feet report your brigade to me, and you shall have a place in the fighting line."[21] It is a tribute to both men that Benning regained his equanimity, Longstreet took Benning's lapse in stride, and both continued the fight.

Shortly after the Battle of Chickamauga, Benning accompanied Longstreet's Corps into eastern Tennessee to prevent General Burnside from linking up with the Union forces in Chattanooga. Later, when this effort proved untenable, Longstreet moved his force to winter quarters near Bristol, Tennessee. The winter was brutal—the mountains of East Tennessee were frigid, the populace heavily Unionist, and the Confederate forces isolated and poorly supplied. Benning tried to get a furlough to visit his family during this time, (his first in more than two years) but it was not approved. Finally, Longstreet's Corps received orders to rejoin Lee's army in Virginia, and it did so on April 22, 1864.[22]

The reunion occurred just as General Ulysses S. Grant prepared to engage and destroy Lee's Army of Northern Virginia. The Battle of the Wilderness, the first major engagement in what would become known as the Overland Campaign, commenced on May 4, 1864. The two day battle—similar to Chickamauga for its heavily forested terrain and confused nature—proved expensive for both sides. Eerily similar to Chancellorsville a year earlier, when General Stonewall Jackson had been mortally wounded by his own pickets, General Longstreet and General Micah Jenkins (now commanding Hood's old division) were both shot by their own men in the confusion, resulting in the death of Jenkins and the serious wounding of Longstreet. In the fierce fighting, Benning also received a wound from a Union shot which shattered his shoulder.[23] He finally received a furlough to return to Columbus to recover.[24]

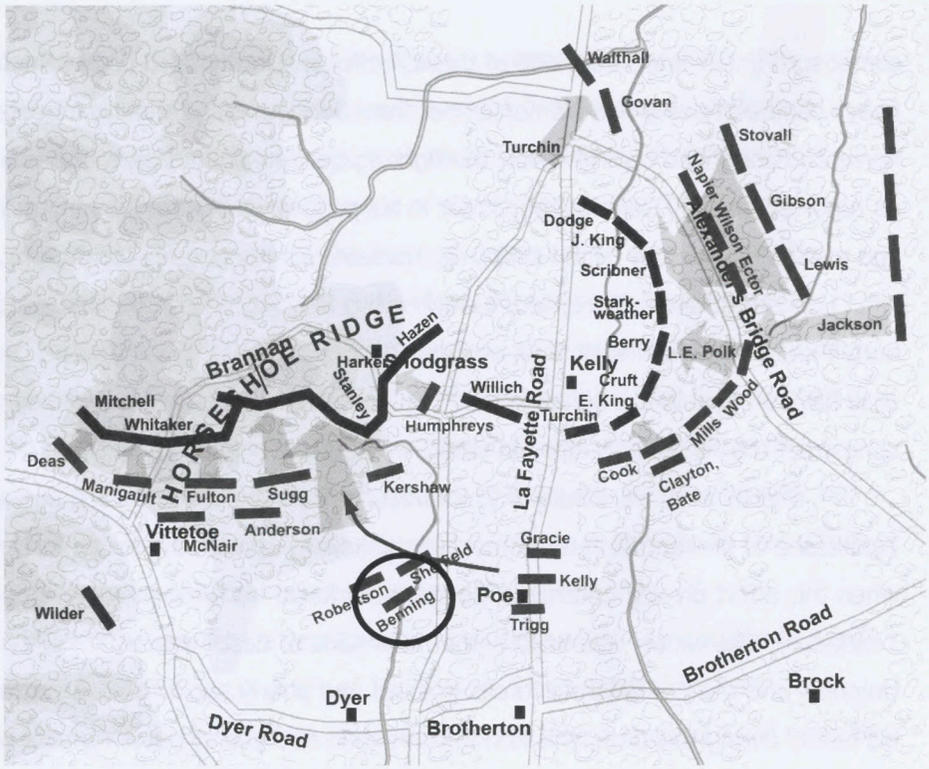
---

[21] Dameron, *Benning's Brigade*, 94. See also Glenn Tucker, *Chickamauga* (Dayton: Morningside House, Inc., 1984) 281-282. Tucker's account downplays Benning's lapse, commenting that "...Bragg would have benefitted from some of Benning's zest..." and including personal accounts from Benning's own soldiers that "tended to relieve Benning of the mild censure by Longstreet..."

[22] Dameron, *Benning,* 179-184; Folder #17, Benning/Jones Collection. An interesting exchange of orders and letters from this ill-advised campaign reflects significant internal dissension within Longstreet's officer cadre during this difficult winter. General Lafayette McLaws, long a stalwart in Longstreet's Corps, had not responded energetically in one of the attacks on a Union position near Knoxville. Longstreet, in an action he later regretted, fired him, and the directive relieving him of command, as well as McLaws' own response to the relief, is contained in the Benning/Jones collection. Unfortunately, Benning's own thoughts on the matter have not survived, but evidently Benning refused to be drawn into the internecine bickering, and he continued in command.

[23] Dameron, *Benning's Brigade*, Vol 2; 108-109.

[24] Special Orders, May 13, 1864; Folder #18, Benning/Jones Collection.



Map of troop positions during the Battle of Chickamauga; Benning's position is shown at lower left

Courtesy of Hal Jespersen and Wikipedia Commons

Sketch by Edwin Forbes depicting the fighting in the thick woods at the Battle of the Wilderness

Courtesy of the Library of Congress

Benning returned to the brigade in November 1864, by which time it was busily involved in defending the defensive works around Petersburg, Virginia in a stalemate that had turned into a lengthy siege. The brigade's role had settled into a routine of six days on the line, followed by two days of rest. Most of the casualties suffered in the trenches were the result of enemy sharpshooters, which the brigade leaders blamed on

the troops themselves for "carelessness."[25] Petersburg fell in April of 1865, resulting in a chaotic retreat by the Army of Northern Virginia which ended in its surrender at Appomattox. Benning did not submit any official report of the brigade's actions. However, he did write in his postwar letter to E.P. Alexander that it was during the retreat from Petersburg that the wagon containing his trunk of official correspondence was lost. He also recounted the brigade's activities in these final days, leapfrogging from position to position covering the retreat of Lee's army. Benning wrote: "At Appomattox Courthouse the division was in the rear with the enemy close up. Its organization was perfect and it was not at all demoralized. I saw many men with tears streaming from their eyes when it was known that Lee had surrendered. They gathered in groups & debated the question whether we should not cut our way out & escape. Most of them were in favor of the attempt. They only waited for a word from me, but I would not give it. On the contrary, I urged them to acquiesce."[26]

Researchers will find most of the materials associated with Benning's Civil War experience in the Benning/Jones Collection in remarkably good condition, and his cursive handwriting legible and fairly easy to decipher. What is missing in most cases is Benning's personal reports of battles, as those few pieces which do exist are in other collections.[27] Nevertheless, what is contained in the Benning/Jones Collection offers some fascinating insights into the Civil War career of Henry L. Benning and anyone interested in that phase of Benning's life would do well to access it. While his namesake, Fort Benning, continues to excel as the schoolhouse for future leaders in the Infantry and Armor/Cavalry Branches, Benning's own exploits as a military leader deserve periodic re-examination and emphasis. As the foregoing account suggests, Benning was a quick study as a combat leader of exceptional steadiness and skill, exhibited a remarkable ability to survive even as he led from the front during four years of war, and perhaps most impressive of all, won the enduring admiration and respect from his men—who gave him the nickname on his tombstone—"Old Rock".

---

[25] Perry letter, July 22, 1864, Folder #18, Benning/Jones Collection. Colonel Dudley Dubose, the next senior commander in the brigade, had taken Benning's place as brigade commander. Reading between the lines, it is clear that Perry did not think that Dubose measured up to Benning's leadership: "...Entre nous, (between us) there is much dissatisfaction among the men & officers, originating in the brigade commander level. _____ _____ has played too hard for the temporary rank of brigadier. Well, to tell the truth it is hard to act modestly in high places and there's a source of discontent to old troops." Although portions of the same letter are quoted in both of Dameron's books, there is nary a word about any discord in the brigade during Benning's absence found in them.

[26] Letter to E.P. Alexander, undated, Folder #18; 13, Ibid.

[27] Some of Benning's correspondence may be found in the Howell Cobb Papers at the Hargrett Rare Books and Archives Collections, University of Georgia, and in the James D. Waddell Papers in the Special Collections at the Robert D. Woodruff Library, Emory University.

Benning's grave at Linwood Cemetery
Courtesy of the author

"Those Huff Girls" – Darlings of the Early Silver Screen

By Daniel Bellware

Louise and Justina Huff
Courtesy of Montgomery County Community College, Betzwood Collection

Justina and Louise Huff were two Columbus-born sisters who made it big in the early days of silent movies. Their popularity proved a boon to the theaters in Columbus, who rarely missed a chance to advertise their relationship to the city. The Huff sisters had gotten in on the ground floor of the fledgling industry by teaming up with early movie mogul Siegmund Lubin, who helped launch their motion picture careers. The Huff girls were born to a prominent Columbus family, as their grandfather, Colonel William Lewis Salisbury, was a Civil War veteran, president of the Merchants and Mechanics Bank and owner of the *Columbus Enquirer*. His daughter, Lucinda Salisbury, was the mother of Justina and Louise. Their father, Thomas Daniel Huff, at one time served as the editor of the *Columbus Enquirer*.[1]

[1]"Mr. Thos. D. Huff Died Suddenly," *Columbus Daily Enquirer*, March 31, 1910, 8.

The Huff girls began their movie careers with one of the first movie moguls, Siegmund Lubin, in Philadelphia. An immigrant ophthalmologist turned inventor and innovator, Lubin patented equipment, produced and distributed movies as well as owned one of the first movie theater chains in the country.

From *Moving Picture World*, December, 1907

The Huff sisters received good educations during their formative years, spent in New York, which served them well in starting their careers—Louise attended Washington Irving High School and Justina reputedly received a four-year scholarship to the Horace Mann Institute, a college prep school.[2] Both were solid foundations for young women who were forced to find their own way in the world much earlier than expected following the sudden death of their father in 1910, an unfortunate event which apparently threw the family on hard financial times. During an interview discussing how she began acting in *Photoplay* magazine in 1920, Louise reminisced that her life sounded like "every novel written by any Southern girl; 'The family fortunes having dwindled away she suddenly found she must earn her own living. She had been trained to do nothing - what could she do to earn her own bread?'"[3]

Justina made her movie debut in July 1913 playing a maid in the Edison Company's production of *The Diamond Crown*, a Kate Kirby detective serial directed by J. Searle Dawley and shown at the American Theater in Columbus on August 23, 1913. Advertisements for this movie neglected to mention Justina's participation, however. It is often reported that she debuted in *Tess of the d'Urbervilles* later that year after being selected by renowned actress Minnie Maddern Fiske to play the character of Liza Lou, a dairymaid. The movie appeared in Columbus for one day only at the Bonita Theater, on November 4, 1913. But, again, Justina went unmentioned in the advertisements for the show. An interesting side note is that Thomas Hardy, the author, viewed the film in London. He did not think the Americanized versions of either *Tess* or the *Wessex Tales* were accurate representations and thought further adaptations of his work should be done on location.[4]

---

[2] "Miss Louise Huff Talks of the Stage," *Columbus Enquirer*, December 26, 1911, 6.
[3] Betty Shannon, "Dante Was Wrong," *Photoplay*, 1920, Volume 18, Issues 2-6, 113.
[4] Paul Niemeyer, *Seeing Hardy: Film and Television Adaptations of the Fiction of Thomas Hardy* (Jefferson, NC: McFarland and Company, 2003), 248.

Home of Exclusive Feature Photo-Plays.
5c AMERICAN 5c
Featuring Today
"BETWEEN DANCES"
Featuring Miss Justina Huff, formerly of Columbus.
"IN THE ELEMENTAL WORLD"
A pretty Biograph Story featuring Irene Howley, Robert Harron and Donald Crisp.
"THE THRIFTY JANITOR"
One thousand feet of comedy, featuring Arthur Housman.

An advertisement for *Between Dances*, starring Justina Huff, which appeared in the *Columbus Daily Enquirer* on January 22, 1914, and an image of Justina Huff from *Moving Picture World,* February 7, 1914

With two credits already to her name, Justina joined her sister at the Lubin Manufacturing Company's Betzwood Studio outside of Philadelphia by the end of 1913. The movies were not always played in the local theaters in the in the order in which they were produced. Justina's fourth film, *Through Flaming Paths*, was shown in Columbus on January 14, 1914. Unfortunately, the advertising for the movie mistakenly gave her sister Louise the acting credit. Justina's fifth film, *Between Dances*, was shown in her hometown on January 22. In promotion for it she finally received the attention she deserved. Her third film, *A Son of His Father*, was eventually shown in Columbus on January 26 and again she received full recognition in advertisements. Her eighth film, *The Windfall*, however, appears to have not been shown in Columbus at all, as there are no mentions of it in contemporary newspapers.

That same year, Justina attended a dance where she was introduced to Dr. John P. Chapman, a medical doctor and instructor of anatomy at the University of Pennsylvania. The two courted briefly and were married in 1915. Justina insisted on maintaining her own career after marriage. That year she appeared in eight films with Ohio-born actor Edgar Jones. Jones also directed seven of the movies they made together. Lubin had two permanent stock companies at Betzwood Studio and Jones headed one of them where he starred in and directed many of his own films, but he left for Thanhouser Studios by the latter half of 1915.[5] Lubin came into legal and financial trouble and lost much of his company's talent about this time. Although Justina made seventeen films that year, like Lubin, her days in the movie business were numbered.

[5] "Answer Department," *Motion Picture*, September 1915, 150

JUSTINA HUFF AT AMERICAN

Former Columbus Girl Will Be Featured in "Between Dances" Today—Other Plays.

"Between Dances," an excellent photo-play, will be shown at the American theatre, today. Miss Justina Huff, a former Columbus girl, sister of Miss Louise Huff, will be featured in this production. They will also show two

JUSTINA HUFF AT AMERICAN

Former Columbus Girl in a Two-Reel Feature There Tomorrow—Doc Baker.

"A Son of His Father," two-reel Lubin Special Feature, featuring Miss Justina Fuff and Florence Elmer in leading roles, comes to the American Monday.

Articles on Justina Huff appeared in the *Columbus Daily Enquirer* on January 22, 1914 and the *Columbus Daily Enquirer* on January 25, 1914. Her films *A Son of His Father*, *Through Flaming Paths, Between Dances* and *The Windfall* were all directed by Joseph Smiley. She appeared in a number of films with this director starting in 1913 and continuing throughout 1914. That year she ended up appearing in some nineteen movies, making it the most productive of her career.

Along with her co-star and director, Justina left Lubin in 1915. She ended up at Universal Studios, where she made her final film, *The Man Inside,* a crime drama in which she played a supporting role. While her career had survived marriage, parenthood seems to have been another matter altogether. Around the time *The Man Inside* was released in January 1916, Justina became pregnant. Her son John was born in October 1916, followed by a daughter, Sarah, in June 1918. Justina appears voluntarily to have given up the silver screen for motherhood shortly after the birth of her children. She had done well for herself in her brief movie career and the poverty she may have feared following the death of her father never materialized due to her own industriousness and talent. She apparently lived quite well as Mrs. John Chapman of Philadelphia. She is known to have visited Europe at least twice while her children were small. She resided in Majorca, Spain, at the time of her sister's death in 1973. Her family ties to Columbus remained strong, however, and she received occasional mention in the society pages of local paper until her death in Philadelphia in 1977 at the age of 83.[6]

[6] Social Security Death index record for Justina Chapman on ancestry.com, accessed August 15, 2016.

Miss Louise Huff, a Former Beautiful Columbus Girl, Who Will Be Seen Here Tomorrow As Lady Ysabel In Graustark.

SPRINGER OPERA HOUSE

XMAS MATINEE, NIGHT, MONDAY, DECEMBER 25TH.

Messrs. Baker and Castle Announce

Graustark

(A Love Behind a Throne)

Presented with a cast of New York Players.

Miss Louise Huff

(A former Columbus girl) as Ysabel.

Seats on Sale Friday, Dec. 22.

PRICES—Matinee: $1.00, 75c, 50c 35c, 25c.

Night: $1.50, $1.00 75c, 50c, 25c.

The *Columbus Ledger* covered Louise Huff's first stage appearance in Columbus on December 24, 1911

The younger of the two sisters, Louise, began her career as a stage actress, ostensibly to earn her own bread. Unfortunately, stock theater did not pay very well. She remarked on being fortunate that, as the production toured the South, she had "kinfolks in every town we played in" which helped make her life on the road a little less expensive.[7] In her first effort, the touring company performed *Graustark,* a dramatization of the George McCutcheon novel about court life in a fictitious eastern European country. In it she played the roles of Theresa, the maid, and the Countess Ysabel. She made her first stage appearance in Columbus on Christmas Day, 1911. Her picture accompanied a story in the *Columbus Ledger* on December 24.[8] In both 1912 and 1913, she had the role of Tirzah in a stage production of *Ben Hur* that toured the country. The play had been based on one of the most popular books of the nineteenth century, a novel penned by former Union General Lew Wallace. The main character's story is intertwined with that of Christ's and was full of religious themes. As the play traveled around the country, reports began appearing that Louise would be leaving the production to join a convent as soon as the show ended.[9] Such articles were usually accompanied by a photograph of Louise wearing a costume that bore a striking resemblance to a nun's habit, sometimes with hands clasped as if in prayer. The story and photograph managed to make the front page of the *San Francisco Chronicle* at the very end of 1912. This was, most certainly, just a publicity stunt, as she continued working, leaving the stage for the movies shortly thereafter.

---

[7] Betty Shannon, "Dante Was Wrong," *Photoplay*, 1920, Volume 18, 113.
[8] "Theatrical," *Columbus Ledger*, December 24, 1911, 2.
[9] "Louise Huff Will Abandon Stage'" *San Francisco Chronicle*, December 31, 1912, 1; "Actress in Ben Hur Will Don Veil at Close of Engagement'" Portland Oregonian, January 21, 1913, 8; "Ben Hur Player to Enter Convent At The End Of Her Season's Contract," *Duluth News Tribune*, Feburary 21, 1913, 14.

The exposure Louise received may have even been what brought her to the attention of film makers. Interestingly enough, the image used to show her preparing to enter the convent in 1912 became the same publicity shot used to advertise her 1916 film *The Reward of Patience*. Her title role of Patience was supported by actress Lottie Pickford, the younger sister of silent film star and "America's Sweetheart," Mary Pickford and older sister of Jack, another Pickford sibling with whom Louise often worked. [10] She began making movies in 1913, starting with two short films, *The Supreme Sacrifice* for Lubin and *Her Supreme Sacrifice* for Warner. Louise then had a couple of uncredited roles for Famous Players Film Company in the Mary Pickford features *In the Bishop's Carriage* and *Caprice*. She signed with Lubin for lead roles in several short features that same year. Articles about her talents claimed that the studio viewed her as perfect for their westerns as she was an accomplished horsewoman, a swimmer of reputation, as well as a clever actress.[11] Louise would later claim that she brought her sister Justina along to that studio.[12]

"Ben-Hur" Player to Enter Convent At the End of Her Season's Contract
LOUISE HUFF.
"Ben Hur" Player Will Soon Enter a Convent
LOUISE HUFF WILL ABANDON STAGE
ACTRESS IN "BEN HUR" WILL DON VEIL AT CLOSE OF ENGAGEMENT
LOUISE HUFF.

Articles claiming Louise would enter a convent at the conclusion of the tour of a play based on the novel *Ben Hur*: *Duluth News Tribune*, Feb. 21, 1913, *San Francisco Chronicle*, Dec. 31, 1912; *Portland Oregonian*, Jan 21, 1913

[10] Mary Pickford was the wife of Douglas Fairbanks and cofounder of United Artists. She was also a cofounder of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

[11] "Film Features," *Cleveland Leader*, December 7, 1913, 38.

[12] "Movie Star Tells Experiences of Film World," *Columbus Daily Enquirer*, January 4, 1916, 5.

Like her sister, Louise worked with Edgar Jones. She made most of her movies at the Lubin Company between 1913 and 1915 with Jones, either as her co-star or director or both. Three of her movies with Jones are known to have survived. *The Vagaries of Fate*, from 1914, and *Where the Road Divided*, from 1915, can be seen online at the Betzwood Studios website.[13] Another 1914 film, *The Country Girl*, is in the process of being restored. Like Edgar Jones and Justina, Louise left Lubin in 1915.[14] Louise's last film for that studio, *Where the Road Divided,* was also her last with Edgar. Lubin declared bankruptcy in 1916 and closed its doors for good. A few years before the closure, Louise had taken her relationship with Edgar much further by marrying him in 1914, despite the twenty year age difference between them. They divorced after only five years, but not before she gave birth to a daughter, Mary Louise. Louise would later claim that she had simply been too young for marriage at the time.

This still shot from Betzwood Studios' webpage shows Edgar Jones and Louise Huff in *Where the Road Divided*, a film released in 1915.

[13] "Louise Huff," accessed Dec 15, 2015, https://mc3betzwood.wordpress.com/actors/louise-huff/.
[14] "Answer Department," *Motion Picture Magazine*, Vol. 10, 150.

Louise skipped from studio to studio in the years after her marriage. She made *Marse Covington* for Rolfe Photoplays, then made *For $5,000 a Year* for the Liberty Motion Picture Company. She finished 1915 with *The Old Homestead* for Famous Players. She began 1916 by making three movies for another three studios; *The Ransom* for Triumph Films, then *The Sphinx* for Universal, and finally *Blazing Love* for Fox. She then went back to Famous Players where she made some of her most memorable films, including *Destiny's Toy*, *When Shadows Fall*, *The Reward of Patience* and *Seventeen*. *Seventeen*, her last film of 1916, was her first pairing with Jack Pickford. They were a popular combination and said to be the youngest couple in the movies. They worked together for about two years and starred in films for several studios, primarily Famous Players. They made their final film together, *Sandy*, in 1918. Afterwards, Jack went off to join the Navy and serve in World War I.[15]

Louise Huff pictured in *Photoplay*, November 1920

After making five movies in 1919, Louise's career slowed dramatically. In 1920 she only made two films: *What Women Want* for American Cinema Corporation and *The Dangerous Paradise* for Selznick Pictures. The slowdown appears to be due at least in part to events in her private life. In 1920 she married Edwin A. Stillman, the president of Watson and Stillman, a hydraulics firm in New York. The couple had two children, William and Nancy, born in 1921 and 1922 respectively. She moved quickly from Selznick Pictures to Metro after this second marriage, reputedly signing a five year contract with Selznick which lasted only five weeks.[16] She did not complete the movie *Fine Feathers* at Metro as had been announced, and made only one movie in 1921, *Disraeli*, for Distinctive Pictures.[17]

Louise left movie making for good after her appearance in *The Seventh Day* in 1922 for Inspiration Pictures. Much like her older sister, motherhood appears to have influenced her decision to retire. In fact, she basically said as much in an interview that appeared shortly after the film's release. She stated that "the greatest glory of the film artist lies in home and motherhood" and "a woman who is devoting her life to stage or screen should not lose sight of her greatest blessing – the love of a husband and little children."[18] Despite their move to New York City, the sisters were both down-to-earth country

---

[15] "Last Appearance of Famous Screen Duo," *Columbus Enquirer*, July 3, 1918, 6.

[16] *Photoplay*, July 1920

[17] Louise Huff filmography listing on Internet Movie Database, accessed August 14, 2016, http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0400218/?ref_=fn_al_nm_1.

[18] "Louise Huff's Views," *Cincinnati Post*, February 21, 1922.

girls at heart. Justina claimed her hobby was "old fashioned cookery."[19] The girls never forgot their roots, and reminders of their past were always nearby. In one article on Louise, the reporter noted that her desk had a photo of her grandfather, who fought in the Civil War.[20] Another mentioned how she preferred to stay at home and sew and play the old mahogany piano they brought from Columbus.[21]

Louise ended her career as it began, back on the stage. This time, however, it was on Broadway, with the productions of *Mary the Third* in 1923 followed by the *New Englander* in 1924. While her first play in ten years went on for 152 performances, the curtain only rose 36 times for her second.[22] That reception may have been enough for her to realize her acting career was over. Like her sister, she had become financially secure and appears to have been ready to concentrate on her family. Louise remained still a celebrity well into the 1920s, and translated her fame as a movie star into advertisements promoting hand lotion and shampoo.[23] She was internationally famous, with her likeness showing up on more than one series of tobacco trading cards in Canada and the United Kingdom in 1919 and her movie *Crook of Dreams*, co-starring Frank Mayo, becoming 'novelized' in the French film magazine *Le Complet Film* in 1926.

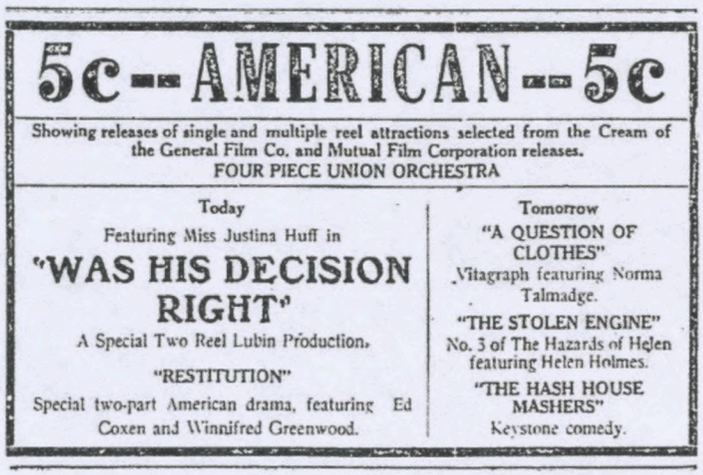
Louise did come out of retirement one last time, very late in her life. She played the part of Greta, the receptionist with a toothache for a failed Mel Brooks television sitcom in 1963 called *Inside Danny Baker*.[24] A pilot was made for the series but it did not get picked up by a network. Although retired from the theater, Louise never entirely lost touch with it. Eventually, she became a director of the Friends of the Theater and Music Collection at the Museum of the City of New York. She died in New York in 1973.[25]

The filmography for Louise Huff is available on the Internet Movie Database (imdb.com) and shows that she appeared in 71 movies during her career. That list is missing *The Lost Switch* that she made for Lubin in 1913, though. (It was referred to as *The Last Switch* in an advertisement for the Bonita Theater in the *Columbus Enquirer*.) Justina made 43 movies during her career. Her entry in Internet Movie Database shows only 41 credits, but is missing two Lubin films from 1914; *Above the Law* and *Was His Decision Right*.

---

[19] "Justina Huff," *Moving Picture World*, February 7, 1914.
[20] Betty Shannon, "Dante Was Wrong," *Photoplay*, 1920, Volume 18, 113.
[21] "Louise Huff – Lubin Ingeune," Moving Picture World, 1913.
[22] "Louise Huff," accessed December 24, 2015, http://www.playbillvault.com/Person/Detail/91473/Louise-Huff.
[23] Louise Huff, the Famous Actress, Tells How to Instantly Beautify Arms and Hands," *Times Picayune*, June 3, 1923, 11.
[24] Anthony Strand "Mel Brooks Lackluster Attempt at TV with Inside Danny Baker," *This Was Television*, April 3, 2013, accessed December 20, 2015, http://thiswastv.com/2013/04/03/mel-brookss-lackluster-attempt-at-tv-with-inside-danny-baker/
[25] "Mrs. Edwin A. Stillman, known as Louise Huff during her acting career, in Mary the Third," *New York Times*, August 23, 1973.

Both Huff girls ended their movie careers before they were thirty years old, but the people of Columbus kept them in their hearts for many years afterwards. Although they lived in Pennsylvania and New York, their family connections in Georgia had them popping up in the society pages every so often. And, when Mrs. J. Nunnally Johnson, the mother of writer and producer for 20th Century Fox Nunnally Johnson, gave a talk on Georgia's contribution to Hollywood for the Wynnton Study Club in 1936, the Huff sisters were front and center when the discussion turned to silent movies.[26] Justina came back to Columbus to visit family with her son in 1942.[27] Both Louise and Justina were mentioned in 1944 when they met up with their cousin Mercer Blanchard and family for his Baltimore wedding.[28] Louise, however, was more apt to appear in the society columns of the *New York Times*, often in relation to her daughters, as when Mary Louise debuted in 1933 and married in 1935 and when Nancy was feted in 1940 and engaged in 1943.[29] When she died in 1973, Louise's obituary appeared in the *New York Times* on August 23 and in both the *Columbus Ledger* and *Columbus Enquirer* newspapers on August 28.

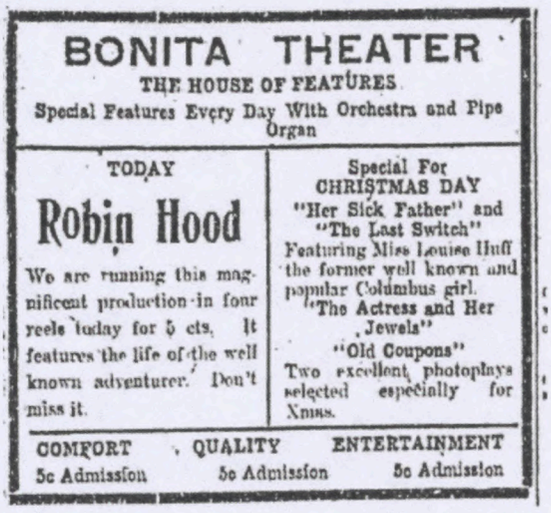

5c--AMERICAN--5c

Showing releases of single and multiple reel attractions selected from the Cream of the General Film Co. and Mutual Film Corporation releases.
FOUR PIECE UNION ORCHESTRA

Today
Featuring Miss Justina Huff in
"WAS HIS DECISION RIGHT"
A Special Two Reel Lubin Production.
"RESTITUTION"
Special two-part American drama, featuring Ed Coxen and Winnifred Greenwood.

Tomorrow
"A QUESTION OF CLOTHES"
Vitagraph featuring Norma Talmadge.
"THE STOLEN ENGINE"
No. 3 of The Hazards of Helen featuring Helen Holmes.
"THE HASH HOUSE MASHERS"
Keystone comedy.

Advertisement for *Was His Decision Right*, shown in the American Theater, in the *Columbus Daily Enquirer*, Jan. 29, 1915


BONITA THEATER
THE HOUSE OF FEATURES
Special Features Every Day With Orchestra and Pipe Organ

TODAY
Robin Hood
We are running this magnificent production in four reels today for 5 cts. It features the life of the well known adventurer. Don't miss it.

Special For CHRISTMAS DAY
"Her Sick Father" and "The Last Switch"
Featuring Miss Louise Huff the former well known and popular Columbus girl.
"The Actress and Her Jewels"
"Old Coupons"
Two excellent photoplays selected especially for Xmas.

COMFORT 5c Admission
QUALITY 5c Admission
ENTERTAINMENT 5c Admission

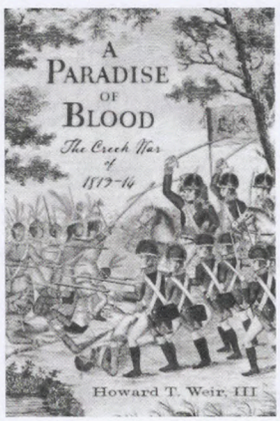
Advertisement for two of Louise Huff's films, *Her Sick Father* and *The Lost Switch*, shown in the Bonita Theater, *Columbus Daily Enquirer* Dec. 23, 1913

---

[26] "Wynnton Study Club Hears Program on Georgia's Stars in Hollywood," *Columbus Enquirer*, Dec. 3, 1936, 11.
[27] "Personals," *Columbus Enquirer*, February 23, 1942, 8.
[28] "Socially Speaking," *The Sunday Ledger-Enquirer*, April 30, 1944, 18.
[29] "Dinner Dance Given for Miss Stillman," *New York Times*, November 4, 1933; "Mary L. Stillman Engaged to Marry," *New York Times*, April 12, 1935; "Garden Fete Today for Miss Stillman," *New York Times*, August 26, 1940; "Nancy B. Stillman Engaged to Marry," *New York Times*, July 13, 1943.

Book Reviews

***A Paradise of Blood: The Creek War of 1813-14*. Howard T. Weir III. Yardley, Penn.: Westholme Publishing, 2016. 546 pp. ISBN 978-1594161933.**



The past couple of decades have witnessed a small explosion in books involving the Creek Indians. Now Howard T. Weir III contributes to the lot with another history of the Creek War of 1813-14. And while academic historians may be disappointed to discover that his work follows a traditional narrative approach to the war and offers no new or provocative reinterpretation of the conflict, the book does add to and enrich our knowledge of the event because it is more expansive and detailed than all previous histories. It is also a relatively long book, but certainly not tedious or boring at any point. Weir is a good writer and his story flows along nicely.

The author begins his account back in the days of the DeSoto expedition (1536-1542) when the Spaniards brought death and destruction to the Mississippian peoples of the Southeast, thus beginning the "paradise of blood" theme of which the Creek war would become a part. At that point Weir explains the rise of the Muscogee Confederacy, sometimes called the Creek nation, and how it rose from out of the ashes of the old Mississippian chiefdoms and rose to become a central player in the economic and political affairs of the Southeast. In the 1790s Benjamin Hawkins became the U.S. agent to the Creeks and instituted an ambitious plan to civilize his native charges according to American standards. At the same time, the aggressive Georgians pushed to take over more and more Creek land. The pressure created fissures in Creek society. Some Creeks accepted the changing times and sought accommodation with the Americans, others resented them and tried to preserve their traditional culture and land domain.

The Creek nation faced a crisis, and the situation came to a head in 1811 when Tecumseh, the famed Shawnee incendiary, descended from the north. But Tecumseh preached war; he called for all tribes to unite in armed resistance against the expansion of the U.S. into the Indian heartland, the trans-Appalachian West. Furthermore, Tecumseh promised that the British, themselves at odds with the Americans, would help the natives defeat their common enemies. Feeling inspired, Creek nativists, the Red Club party, joined Tecumseh's movement and rebelled against their accommodationist leaders in a Creek civil war. But in the process, they committed the shocking Fort Mims massacre and brought on a war with the U.S., the Creek War of 1813-14 that became a theater of the larger War of 1812 between the U.S. and Britain.

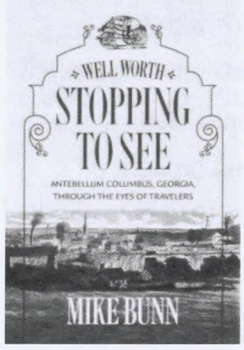
Weir goes on to detail all the battles and even minor engagements of the conflict, particularly the operations of Andrew Jackson's invading army from Tennessee. Previous authors have written their military histories of the war, but Weir gives more extensive descriptions of the fighting and a wider view

of the conflict by showing how the Georigia, Tennessee, and Mississippi Territory troops closed in on the Creek country from three different directions and worked in concert to defeat the Red Clubs. Moreover, Weir makes a real contribution to the literature with his account of American efforts to enlist the aid of Chickasaws and Choctaws against the Red Clubs. Readers will also find his retelling of the Battle of Horseshoe Bend story engrossing. Jackson's troops slaughtered, often in gruesome fashion, hundreds of Red Club warriors in that decisive battle, which brought to a close, for the most part, the Creek war, and gave Jackson the leverage he needed to force the Treaty of Fort Jackson on all the Creeks whether hostile or friendly. In fact, Weir makes it clear that many Creek warriors aided the Americans, as did Cherokee combatants, but that did not stop Jackson from extracting some twenty-two million acres of land from the Creek nation. This land cession, in turn, marked the end of Creek independence in the Southeast and the coming of the new power on the land, the Cotton Kingdom.

And so ends Weir's account. It is a grand effort, based on extensive research in U.S. records, documents housed in the state archives of Georgia, Alabama and Mississippi, and numerous secondary publications. But as full and rich as this book is, it does not tell the complete story. As with most all traditional narrative histories, it portrays a somewhat ethnocentric and condescending view of the Red Clubs and their beliefs. Weir claims, for example, that the Creek war resulted from the actions of a people gone mad (p. 54). Other books do a better job of explaining the Creek point of view on the war. Consequently, Weir's work should be read in concert with Gregory Waselkov's *A Conquering Spirit: Fort Mims and the Red Stick War of 1813-14* and Joel W. Martin's *Sacred Revolt: The Muscogee's Struggle for a New World*.

John T. Ellisor
Columbus State University

Well Worth Stopping To See: Antebellum Columbus, Georgia, Through The Eyes Of Travelers.
Mike Bunn. Macon: Mercer University Press, 2016. 166 pp. ISBN 978-0881465495.



Mike Bunn's recently released *Well Worth Stopping To See: Antebellum Columbus, Georgia, Through The Eyes Of Travelers* is the latest in a line of thoroughly researched and well written books by Bunn, all of which have to do with the history of the Chattahoochee River Valley and surrounding region.

For anyone interested in the history of Columbus, especially as seen through the eyes of nineteenth century visitors—Tyrone Power, James Silk Buckingham, Frederick Law Olmsted, Sir Charles Lyell, Harriet Martineau, Anne Royall, George William Feathestonhaugh (pronounced "Fanshaw"), among others — W*ell Worth Stopping To See* is a treasure chest of local vignettes. Plus, there is a fine introductory

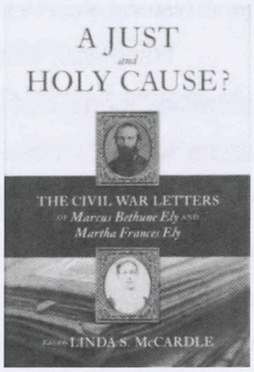
chapter devoted to the history of Columbus, an insightful bibliography by Bunn, a writer who knows the territory, and a more than generous lagniappe in the form of a chapter devoted to a driving tour of the prime historic sites in our city.

Martineau, who passed our way in 1835, was critical of the city's violence, dreadful hotel accommodations, and lack of culture, but she was fascinated by its Indians and the town's beautiful natural setting. "It bears the appearance," she concluded," of being a thriving, spacious, handsome village, well worth stopping to see." Power, while critical of the desperate condition of the Creek Indians, was impressed by the town's rapid development. "I should say that nowhere in this South country have I yet seen a place which promises more of the prosperity increasing wealth can bestow...." While many of these early nineteenth century visitors found Columbus hospitable and its people likable, not all did. Olmsted, "the father of landscape architecture," found the place revolting: "I had seen in no place, since I left Washington, so much gambling, intoxication, and cruel treatment of servants in public... I must caution persons, travelling for health or pleasure, to avoid stopping in the town." Buckingham, a celebrated English travel writer and author, who visited the city in 1839, observed, "That there are some excellent, honourable families living there... is undoubtedly true; but the great bulk of the community furnish some of the worst specimens of character, and the reputation of Columbus stands at a low estimate." Buckingham was offended, as were many other early visitors to the town, by the evidence of slavery and the towns involvement in Creek Indian removal. Public drunkenness offended still other visitors. Featherstonhaugh, an internationally known geologist who stopped here in 1835, described the city as "pretty" and the Chattahoochee as a fine stream, but then he lambasted the populace, noting that the streets were "swarming with drunken Indians, and young prostitutes, both Indian and white, a sufficient indication of the manners of the place." In other words, Columbus was still a rough and tumble frontier town in the 1830s, but some of its possibilities for progress were evident.

But the most trenchant observations about our town found in *Well Worth Stopping To See* are not found among the writings of these early visitors. Those observations are found in Bunn's wonderful introduction to his subject. Alas, there is no space here to do justice to that part of Bunn's book (see pages 19-25 on slavery and the Indian question; 31-39 on social mores and culture). Nor can we examine in meaningful detail Bunn's driving tour of the early city. Trust me, these parts of the book are very well done indeed and would serve admirably for any individual or organization wishing to learn more about our past or to show contemporary visitors some of the fascinating characteristics of Columbus in its infancy. Should be required reading in our schools and for any organization or individual in the business of greeting outsiders. Well worth buying and reading.

Billy Winn
Independent Historian and Author

***A Just and Holy Cause? The Civil War Letters of Marcus Bethune Ely and Martha Frances Ely.* Edited by Linda S. McCardle. Macon: Mercer University Press, 2016. 200 pp. ISBN 978-088146593.**



Linda S. McCardle's recent edited collection of the Civil War letters of her ancestors, *A Just and Holy Cause*, is a welcome addition to the historiography of the Columbus area. In it the author offers the combined Civil War correspondence of Lt. Marcus Bethune Ely and his wife, Martha Frances Ely. While the book contains few searing descriptions of raging battles, it does provide candid insight into how the war really impacted families in the Columbus area and will surely be of interest to students of regional history.

Marcus Ely joined Company H of the 54th Georgia Infantry Regiment, the "Russell Guards," at its organization in Columbus in May of 1862. Serving alongside men hailing for the most part from Muscogee and Harris counties, Ely would eventually see action in the climactic struggle for Atlanta and the disastrous anticlimax of Confederate military power that was the spectacular failure of a campaign for Nashville. However, Ely's wartime experience can only be described as humdrum from 1862 to 1864, as he spent that time in various camps on the Georgia and South Carolina coasts, near Savannah and Charleston respectively, contemplating large Union advances that never came. When he finally got thrown into an actual combat situation in the spring of 1864, though, it would be in one of the most pitched and prolonged firefights of the war. Ely served in multiple battles throughout the fighting before Atlanta, from Dalton to Peachtree Creek, as General Joseph Johnston's Confederate army grudgingly gave ground to General William T. Sherman's attackers.

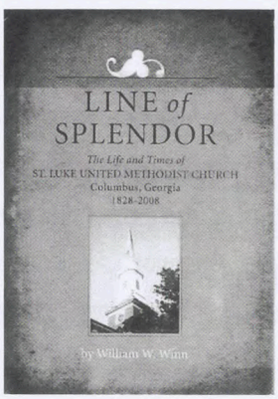
Ely survived the battles only to be caught up in General John Bell Hood's quixotic effort to retake the city of Nashville that yielded the Confederacy one of its most humbling defeats. At some point in the latter stages of that effort Ely became severely ill with what appears to have been tuberculosis, and spent the remainder of the war in various hospitals in Alabama and Georgia, among them one in Columbus. Readers will be disappointed but certainly not surprised to see that the pace of Ely's otherwise prolific correspondence is slowed during the times of the most military action. This is no doubt owing to both his personal situation on the front lines and the deteriorating Confederate postal system during its greatest stress.

That the correspondence contained within the book is still enlightening is a testament to its value. Among Ely's letters home quite a number of Mattie's letters to him survive and are included; a rare thing in published Civil War letter collections. This offers readers the opportunity to gain a more well-rounded understanding of the routines, cares, and fears of this area's families during a defining time of crisis from the standpoint of a soldier in the field and his loved ones at home. As with any collection of Civil War letters, there is the usual monotony of the soldier's pleading for more letters from home, complaints of his lack of good food and clothing, mundane details of camp life, and seemingly all too

abrupt descriptions of the fighting and personal assessments of military strategy. And, like most collections of Civil War letters, it is not necessarily an engrossing narrative. But because the book contains scattered but revealing accounts of family matters, soldier morale and activities, and details of civilian life it will be a useful addition to public and private libraries in the Chattahoochee Valley region and beyond. McCardle's inclusion of a brief but information-packed summary of the Elys' pre-war lives and appendices including descriptions of towns and other geographic locations mentioned in the text, short biographies of Ely and Dumas family members mentioned in the letters, as well as biographies of the members of the Russell Guards whom Marcus Ely served with, all contribute to making the book a valuable reference resource.

Mike Bunn
Editor, *Muscogiana*

***Line of Splendor: The Life and Times of St. Luke United Methodist Church, Columbus, Georgia, 1828-2008*. William W. Winn. Columbus: St. Luke United Methodist Church, 2010. 697 pp. ISBN978-0-9759759-1-6.**



William W. Winn's *Line of Splendor* is one of the very few Georgia congregational histories that truly attempts to integrate time, place, and institution over the span of generations. Winn's book is a chronicle of the development of one of Columbus, Georgia's largest and oldest religious institutions, narrated with assiduous attention to the environment in which it has operated. Within its pages are both all the internal details of theology, structure, and outreach past and present which parishioners of St. Luke United Methodist Church might want to know and an insightful commentary on the community which both shaped and was shaped by the church. That there is much of use here for students of Georgia history of a variety of disciplines should be obvious.

Author William (Billy) Winn is particularly well suited to telling the St. Luke story, he having become something of a bard for Chattahoochee Valley history over the decades. Now retired from a long and distinguished career as a reporter and editor, he has been writing about the history and culture of Georgia and the South—with an emphasis on his hometown of Columbus—for the better part of half a century. Despite his immense popularity locally, his work is refreshingly less celebratory than revelatory at heart; he has written candidly about some of the most uncomfortable and infamous events in the town's forgotten past, especially its unsavory episodes of racial violence and the sordid saga of the Columbus' integral involvement in the Removal of the native Creek Indians. While this is his first foray into church history, he brings a unique sense of balance and polish to the manuscript that immediately promises to separate the book from much similar literature.

Winn traces St. Luke all the way back to its distant roots in the Asbury Mission to the Creek Indians along the banks of the Chattahoochee in the days of the early nineteenth century when western Georgia was still the domain of native groups. After detailing the church's official beginnings in the original survey of the city of Columbus (1828), he proceeds to chronicle era by era the congregation's development. Of particular note to many readers of antebellum Georgia history, he explains that St. Luke became more prominent than might be generally recognized in the antebellum era for its central role in the slavery-based national debate over the division of the Methodist Church into Northern and Southern divisions, revealing the seeds of a thorny race-related thematic strand in the church's history that persisted well into the twentieth century. He discusses the sometimes profound and at others tangential ways events swirling outside the sanctuary walls impacted the congregation; the dramatic interlude of the Civil War and Reconstruction, legal debates over women's voting rights and the temperance movement, the progressive bust and boom of the Depression and World War II eras, the soul-searching moral controversies of the Civil Rights Movement, and dilemmas and opportunities posed in turn by urban decay and downtown redevelopment. He tracks a steady stream of local leading lights as major players in the church's fortunes, shedding light on an impressive legacy of diversified community service in the name of ecclesiastical calling by a portion of the Columbus elite that is by itself an important contribution to the city's history. Those familiar with the historiography of religion in the South will find in the text almost as many authentic local glimmerings of broad currents elucidated by notable scholars such as Donald Matthews (*Religion in the Old South*), John B. Boles (*Religion in the South*) and Charles Reagan Wilson (*Religion in the American South*) as similarities to the scores of Georgia church histories which share with it little more than statements of purpose. Within its pages are sophisticated discussions of evangelicalism, community development, and race and privilege in a quintessential Southern establishment.

It is ultimately in consideration of both these distinctly local and broader threads that Winn's book should be evaluated by students of Georgia history, for it makes a genuine effort to explain St. Luke's history as firmly part of the world in which it operates. While the bulk of its hefty 600 pages are, as expected, filled with tedious details of the workings of church committees, progress towards various capital campaigns, and the tenure of ministers and other staff, the book simultaneously and convincingly captures bits of the cultural milieu in which all these internal activities took place. Rarely has a church history at once been so erudite in providing context and so complete in the chronicling of its primary subject. Even if it is not a book for everyone due to its subject and format, readers of Georgia history should know it manages to set itself apart in a frequently formulaic genre that more often than not has eschewed real analysis in favor of rote praise.

Mike Bunn
Editor, *Muscogiana*

Linwood Through the Lens: Contemporary Photographs of Historic Linwood Cemetery. **The Historic Linwood Foundation, Inc. Columbus, GA: The Historic Linwood Foundation LLC, 2014. 168 pp. ISBN 978-0-692-02563-5.**

Cemeteries have long captivated people for their somber yet reverent atmosphere as well as their air of mystery and otherworldliness. People are drawn to these places to remember those from the past, to seek out a place of quiet solitude and reflection, and perhaps even for paranormal experiences. Indeed, cemeteries are many things to many different people. Photographers, in particular, often visit places of interment to capture powerful moments of life and death as well as the many artistic and religious symbols prevalent on headstones and other monuments. The oldest cemetery in Columbus, Georgia, is no exception. Linwood Cemetery, established in 1828, occupies nearly thirty acres of land with thousands of graves. In a way, it is an outdoor museum full of Columbus history and culture with finely crafted sculptures that tell an artistic story all their own. *Linwood Through the Lens: Contemporary Photographs of Historic Linwood Cemetery* seeks to capture this landscape as a whole while simultaneously focusing on the elements of history and art hidden away and easily missed.

Linwood Through the Lens was produced as a fundraiser for the Historic Linwood Foundation in 2014. A call went out to both amateur and professional photographers for submissions culminating in 438 entries from over sixty individuals. Ultimately, 147 made it into the final publication from fifty-four photographers. Photographs range from broad landscapes to detail shots of monuments; there is even an aerial image from a drone. The book encompasses different seasons and times of day, providing a variety of images. However, all of the images are produced in a stunning high resolution black and white format tying them together nicely and conveying a sense of timelessness that certainly seems appropriate for the topic.

It is clear that a great deal of thought went into this publication, especially from the contributing photographers. Each image is thought provoking, and one could easily become lost in contemplating their meaning, story, and artistic elements. Photographs are displayed without any text, a minimalist style which will be appreciated by some, but captions would have been beneficial. Full descriptions may not have been appropriate, but titles of each piece would have been helpful, as well as credit lines recognizing the photographer. Both of these exist in a separate credit list in the back of the book, but flipping between pages is cumbersome and disrupts the reader's thoughts and reflection. Nevertheless, the book is thoroughly enjoyable, insightful, and beautifully produced. *Linwood Through the Lens* can be purchased at the Historic Linwood Foundation for $25.00.

David Owings
Archivist, Columbus State University

Index

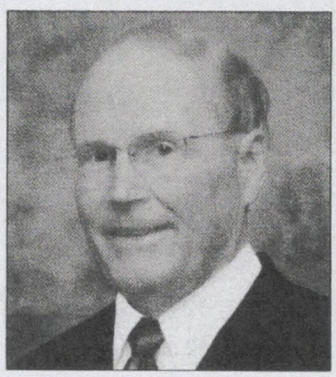
A Son of His Father, 39
Above the Law, 45
Alexander, E.P., 28, 32, 35
American Cinema Corporation, 44
American Theater, 38
Anderson, Gen. Richard, 28, 29
Antietam, Battle of, 28, 29, 31
Appomattox Court House, VA, 35
Atlanta, GA, 18, 19, 21, 22, 32
Atlanta Constitution, 14, 15, 22
Auburn, AL, 14
Baltimore, MD, 46
Battle, Louise, 14
Bellware, Daniel, 37
Ben Hur, 41, 42
Benning, Anna C., 17
Benning, Henry L., 24-36
Benning, Seaborn, 28, 29
Berlin, Germany, 14, 16
Berry, Kinsel, 20
Between Dances, 39
Betzwood Studios, 39, 43
Blanchard, Mercer, 46
Bonita Theater, 38, 45, 46
Booth, Edwin, 20
Boyce, Nellie, 14
Bragg, Gen. Braxton, 25, 32
Brenau College, 12, 14, 15, 16
Bristol, TN, 33
Brooks, Mel, 45
Brown, Bessie, 20
Brown, Gov. Joseph E., 25
Browne, Rhodes, 1
Browne, Mrs. Rhodes, 1, 7
Browne, Nina Young, 1
Bruce, Richard, 20
Buckingham, James Silk, 48, 49
Bunn, Mike, 48, 49, 51, 52
Cantey, Catherine, 21
Cantey, James, 21
Cantey, John, 15, 21
Cantey, Louise Drake, 15, 21, 22
Caprice, 42
Chambers, William H., 7
Chancellorsville, Battle of, 25, 30
Chapman, Dr. John P., 39, 40
Chapman, Sarah, 40
Chattanooga, TN, 33
Cheney, Catherine Mason, 13
Cheney, John Calvin, 13
Chickamauga, Battle of, 25, 31-34
Clason, Elizabeth, 14
Columbus Enquirer, 2-4, 6, 8, 9, 12, 22, 37, 39, 4045, 46
Columbus Enquirer-Sun, 6, 14, 20
Columbus Ledger, 41, 46
Columbus Fem. Sem. Academy, 13
Columbus Iron Works, 22, 23
Country Club of Columbus, 18
Crawford, Bennett H., 6, 8, 9, 17
Crawford, Edna, 14
Crook of Dreams, 45
Dameron, David, 26
Dawley, J. Searle, 38
Dawson, Elizabeth Flewellan, 7
Dawson, Hugh, 7
de Antignac, Mrs. Lou, 7
de Soto, Hernando, 47
Destiny's Toy, 44
Disraeli, 44
Distinctive Pictures, 44
Dozier, Nelson, 3
Drake, Emma Reese Mason, 13
Drake, John William Walton, 13
Duluth News-Tribune, 42
Edison Company, 38
Ellisor, John T., 48
Ely, Lt. Marcus Bethune, 50
Ely, Martha Frances, 50
Epping, H. H., 9
Eufaula, AL, 3, 9, 12
Famous Players Film Company, 44
Farnsworth, Gen. Elon, 32
Featherstonhaugh, George William, 48
Fifteenth Regt. of GA Vols., 25, 28, 30, 31

Fine Feathers, 44
First Presbyterian Church, 17
Fiske, Minnie Madden, 38
Flewellan, Abner Chapman, 7
Flewellen, Elvira, 7
Flewellen, James Thweatt, 7
Flewellean, Sarah Shepherd, 8
For $5,000 a Year, 44
Forbes, Edwin, 34
Fort Benning, 35
Fort Gaines, GA, 3
Fredericksburg, Battle of, 29
Gainesville, GA, 14
Garnett's Farm, Battle of, 27
Georgia Supreme Court, 25
Georgia Tech, 20, 21, 23
Gettysburg, Battle of, 30, 31
Giddens, Bertha, 14
Grant, Gen. Ulysses S., 33
Graustark, 41
Grier, Charles, 7
Grier, James, 5, 9
Grier, Robert, 7
Grimes, Annie Lou, 20
Grimes, Cecil, 20
Hardy, Thomas, 38
Harris, Roger, 1
Hawkins, Benjamin, 47
Her Sick Father, 46
Her Supreme Sacrifice, 42
Hill, Gen. A.P., 28, 29
Historic Linwood Foundation, 53
Holden, Gov. William, 32
Hood, Gen. John Bell, 50
Horace Mann Institute, 38
Howard, Sarah, 20
Huff, Justina, 37,-40, 45, 46
Huff, Louise, 37, 38, 41-46
Huff, Thomas Daniel, 37
Hunt, Marjorie Browne, 1
In The Bishop's Carriage, 42
Inside Danny Baker, 45
Inspiration Pictures, 44
Jackson, Andrew, 47, 48
Jackson, Gen. Thomas J., 33
Jenkins, Gen. Micah, 33
Johnson, Nunnally, 46
Johnson, Mrs. Nunnally, 46
Johnston, Gen. Joseph E., 27, 50
Jones, Edgar, 39, 43
Jones, Gen. David, 25, 27
Jones, Mary Louise, 43, 46
Kilpatrick, Gen. Judson, 32
Kirby, Kate, 38
Kyle, George, 20
Ladies Educational and Benevolent Association, 17
Law, Gen. Evander, 30, 31
Lee, Gen. Robert E., 25, 27, 29, 30, 31, 33, 35
Leppert, Adelaide Mason, 13, 16
Leppert, William Joseph, 13, 16, 2
Liberty Motion Picture Company, 44
Linn, Phil, 24
Linwood Cemetery, 12, 19, 22, 36, 53
Lockwood, T. Firth, 1
London, England, 14, 38
Longstreet, Gen. James, 25, 27, 28, 30, 31, 33, 34
Lubin, Siegmund, 37, 38, 42, 43, 45
Lubin Manufacturing Company, 39
Lyell, Sir Charles, 48
Macon, GA, 22-23
Madison, GA, 14, 15, 20
Magruder, Gen. John, 27
Malvern Hill, Battle of, 27
Martineau, Harriet, 48, 49
Mason, Albert, 13
Mason, Dr. John James, 12, 16
Mason, William, 13, 16
Mary the Third, 45
Mason, George H., 13, 16
Mason, Harriet, 8
Mayo, Frank, 45
McCardle, Linda S., 50
McCauley, First Lt. Henry, 26
McClellan, Gen. George B., 27
McCutcheon, George, 41
McLaws, Gen. Lafayette, 30
Morehouse College, 21
Muscogee Real Estate Company, 1
Museum of the City of New York, 45

New Englander, 45
New York, NY, 15, 38, 44, 45
New York Times, 46
Ogletree, Mr., 3
Olmsted, Frederick Law, 48, 49
Orphan's Home for Girls, 17, 18
Owings, David, 53
Peacock, Mrs. G.T., 18
Pearce, Dr. Haywood J., 15
Pearce, Louise, 14
Pease, Will, 20
Perry House, 7, 17
Petersburg, VA, 35
Philadelphia, PA, 38, 39, 40
Pickford, Jack, 42, 44
Pickford, Lottie, 42
Pope, Gen. John, 28
Portland Oregonian, 42
Power, Tyrone, 48, 49
Raleigh, NC, 32
Randolph, Con. Sec. of War G.W., 26
Rankin Hotel, 8, 9
Richmond, VA, 30
Ringgold, GA, 32
Rogers, Catherine, 12
Roy, William, 3
Royall, Anne, 48
St. Luke Methodist Church, 51, 52
Salisbury, Col. William L., 37
Salisbury, Lucinda, 37
San Francisco Chronicle, 41, 42
Sandy, 44
Scandinavian Belting Company, 21
Second Manassas, Battle of, 28
Second Regt. of GA Vols., 25, 28
Seddon, Con. Sec. of War James, 32
Selenick Pictures, 44
Seven Pines, Battle of, 27
Seventeen, 44
Seventeenth Regt. of GA Vols., 25, 26, 28
Shepherd, Albert Hillhouse, 7
Shepherd, Albert Wynn, 8, 13
Shepherd, Andrew, 18
Shepherd, Charlotte Woodville, 8, 17
Shepherd, Edward Thomson, 8
Shepherd, Harriet Mason, 13
Shepherd, Lucy Banks, 19
Shepherd, Mrs. Andrew, 18
Shepherd, Sarah Porter, 7
Shepherd, William Smythe, 8
Sherman, Gen. William T., 50
Shorter College, 14
Slade, Mary, 20
Slade, Rhodes, 20
Slade, Roberta, 20
Smiley, Joseph, 40
Smythe, Anne, 7
Starke and Riddle, 12
Starke, Irene Mason, 8-16, 18, 20-23
Starke, John M., 1-7, 9, 11, 12, 16, 17, 20, 23
Starke, John T., 3, 7, 9-14, 16, 18, 20-23
Starke, Mary E., 17
Starke, Mary Grier, 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 16, 20, 23
Starke, Sarah "Sallie," 3, 4, 7, 9-11, 16-19, 23, 27
Stillman, Edwin A., 44
Stillman, Nancy, 44
Stillman, William, 44
Strother, Weyman, 1
Suffolk, VA, 30
Swift, George, 20
Tecumseh, 47
Tess of the d'Urbervilles, 38
Thanhouser Studios, 39
The Dangerous Paradise, 44
The Diamond Crown, 38
The Lost Switch, 45, 46
The Man Inside, 40
The Old Homestead, 44
The Ransom, 44
The Reward of Patience, 42, 44
The Seventh Day, 44
The Sphinx, 44
The Vagaries of Fate, 43
The Windfall, 39
Through Flaming Paths, 39
Thweatt, James T., 17

Thweatt, Charlotte Woodville "Woodie" Shepherd, 8, 17
Toombs, Gen. Robert, 25, 27, 28, 29
Triumph Films, 44
Twentieth Century Fox, 46
Twentieth Regt. of GA Vols., 25, 28
Universal Studios, 40, 44
University of Chicago, 13
University of Pennsylvania, 39
Van Riper, Mr., 11
Vance, Gov. Zebulon B., 32
Waddell, Elizabeth Fleming "Bessie," 14, 15
Walldell, Sallie Nash, 14, 15
Wallace, Lew, 41
Was His Decision Right, 45, 46
Waselkov, Gregory, 48
Washington Seminary, 21
Watson and Stillman Firm, 44
Watson, Annie Latimer, 20
Watson, Patten, 20
Waud, Alfred, 27
Weir, Howard T., III, 47
Wessex Tales, 38
Westview Cemetery (Atlanta), 21
What Women Want, 44
When Shadows Fall, 44
Where the Road Divided, 43
Wilderness, Battle of The, 33, 34
Wildwood, 20
Williams, Martha Jane Mason, 13
Williams, Mason, 22
Williams, William Henry Harrison, 13
Willingham, Emma Dora, 20
Winn, Billy, 49, 51, 52
Wood, Marie, 20
Wynn, Eliza, 8
Wynnton, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 19
Wynnton Study Club, 46

FLOURNOY & CALHOUN
REALTORS



Murray Calhoun, III

Office (706) 327-1990
Cell: (706) 573-3414
Home (706) 327-3414
Fax (706) 327-1996
2520 Wynnton Road
Columbus, Georgia 31906
Murray@fcrealtors.com

MUSCOGEE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Purpose

The Muscogee Genealogical Society is dedicated to the preservation of the history of the Columbus/Original Muscogee County area and its people, as well as the education of individuals in the techniques of discovering their own heritage.

Board of Directors

Co-Presidents	Dr. Tom and Judy Hanley
Vice-President	Linda McCardle
Secretary	Martha Ragan
Treasurer	Cheryle Wadsworth
Past President	Carol Ranieri
Journal Editor	Mike Bunn
Webmaster	Jacqueline Radebaugh
Member at Large	Linda Ames
Member at Large	Dr. Hugh Rodgers
Member at Large	Dr. Brian Schwartz
Member at Large	Cliff Tucker
Executive Director	Callie McGinnis

Become a member by completing and mailing the form below. Annual membership dues include a subscription to the biannual publication *Muscogiana: Journal of the Muscogee Genealogical Society*, ISSN 1042-3419. Those with family memberships will receive only one journal per family. Annual membership runs from January through December.

MEMBERSHIP FORM
Muscogee Genealogical Society
P.O. Box 761, Columbus, Georgia 31902

www.muscogeegenealogy.com

NAME_____

ADDRESS_____

EMAIL_____ PHONE_____

Please check one:
Individual Dues: $20.00 Family Dues: $25
Library Dues: $25.00

Please send this form with your check to the address above. We appreciate your support!

MUSCOGEE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
P. O. Box 761
Columbus, Georgia 31902
Webpage: www.muscogeegenealogy.com

Index to Muscogiana

A cumulative personal name index is available at the Society's website. A subject index is also available at that site.

Muscogiana – Back Issues (Digital)

In 2015, the Muscogee Genealogical Society, in conjunction with Columbus State University Archives, began a digitization project. All but the last 2 years of the journal are available at https://archive.org/search.php?query=muscogiana&sort=-date. For more information go to the Society's webpage and click on theMuscogiana Surname Index tab.

Muscogiana – Back Issues (Print)

$7.00 for each issue ordered.

Vol. 1, No. 3	Vol. 9, Nos. 1&2	Vol. 17, No. 1	Vol. 24, No. 1
Vol. 1, No. 4	Vol. 9, Nos. 3&4	Vol. 17, No. 2	Vol. 24, No. 2
Vol. 3, Nos. 1&2	Vol. 10, Nos. 1&2	Vol. 18, No. 1	Vol. 25, No. 1
Vol. 3, Nos. 3&4	Vol. 11, Nos. 1&2	Vol. 18, No. 2	Vol. 25, No. 2
Vol. 4, Nos. 1&2	Vol. 11, Nos. 3&4	Vol. 19, No. 1	Vol. 26, No. 1
Vol. 4, Nos. 3&4	Vol. 12, No. 1	Vol. 19, No. 2	Vol. 26, No. 2
Vol. 5, Nos. 1&2	Vol. 13, No. 1	Vol. 20, No. 1	Vol. 27, No. 1
Vol. 5, Nos. 3&4	Vol. 13, No. 2	Vol. 20, No. 2	
Vol. 6, Nos. 1&2	Vol. 14, No. 1	Vol. 21, No. 1	
Vol. 6, Nos. 3&4	Vol. 14, No. 2	Vol. 21, No. 2	
Vol. 7, Nos. 1&2	Vol. 15, No. 1	Vol. 22, No. 1	
Vol. 7, Nos. 3&4	Vol. 15, No. 2	Vol. 22, No. 2	
Vol. 8, Nos. 1&2	Vol. 16, No. 1	Vol. 23, No. 1	
Vol. 8, Nos. 3&4	Vol. 16, No. 2	Vol. 23, No. 2	

Please include $2.50 for shipping and handling for 1 issue; $5.00 for 2 or more issues. Make check payable to "Muscogee Genealogical Society" and mail to the address above. An order form is also available at the Society's website.

MUSCOGIANA
Muscogee Genealogical Society
P.O. Box 761
Columbus, Georgia 31902

COLUMBUS STATE
UNIVERSITY